VANCOUVER metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Going, going ... sold!

Despite being the butt of some jokes, the Surrey condos billed as the smallest in the country are being snapped up fast PAGE 3

I dream of Juno

Hallelujah — they called her, definitely. What a great Weeknd. Find out who was among the big winners at the Juno Awards festivities in Regina PAGE 15

GET JIGGY WITH IT

IN A METRO EXCLUSIVE, WILL AND JADEN SMITH SIT DOWN TO DISCUSS THEIR NEW FILM, THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET AND TEASE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FRESH PRINCE JR., WHILE MOM JADA TALKS ABOUT HER AND WILL'S 'GROWN RELATIONSHIP' PAGES 16 & 17

The Vancouver Sun Run gets underway Sunday, with yellow and blue balloons showing support after the bombing at the Boston Marathon last week. More on the tragedy's aftermath, page 8. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Vancouver racers go extra mile in Boston's honour

Sun Run. Thousands show their support after bombing by donning yellow and blue

Individually, it was a small gesture.

But by the thousands, runners at this year's Vancouver Sun Run donned yellow T-shirts, threw on Red Sox caps or tied blue ribbons in their hair.

United, some 47,000 participants sent an undeniably strong show of support and love across the continent to the victims of last week's bombing at the Boston Marathon.

"On the way here on the bus, we were seeing people wearing (blue and yellow) everywhere and it just feels like you're part of something bigger than yourself," said runner Jonathan Kung, who himself wore the Boston Marathon's official colours for the occasion. "We want to show support for and commemorate the people who lost their lives there. They were people who were there to celebrate a great event, just like the people here (in Vancouver)."

Joyce Metcalf of Mission competed in the Boston Marathon in 2005 and said the experience was one of her "most positive ever."

Like so many far away, she felt helpless watching the tragedy in Boston unfold and was driven to show her support at the Sun Run by wearing her official Boston Marathon jacket and sporting yellow and blue ribbons on her cap.

"It's almost the least I can do," she said. "This was something I could do, something to acknowledge and give support to the people of Boston."

Bostonians may not see Metcalf's individual show of solidarity, but she hopes those affected by the bombing are comforted by images coming in from all corners of the world of people standing strong for Boston.

"At times like this, you draw on the small things to keep you going, so I hope they're seeing this," she said.

Braedon Asher, wearing his Red Sox jersey, said he believes the global outreach at events like the Sun Run will help Boston bounce back.

"At next year's Boston Marathon, I'm sure they'll see records for attendance to show you can't change the way we live," he said. "Runners are their own group, they support each other all over the world. That's why marathons are so popular."

In that spirit, Vancouverites defiantly kept running Sunday.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Mortgage Matters p.10-11

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Real estate.
Tiny condos net big sales for developer

Who's laughing now?

The Balance Micro-Suites condominium in Surrey has garnered headlines and public buzz in the past few weeks, but not always for the right reasons.

Dubbed "Canada's smallest-ever condos" — 60 per cent of the 56 suites are 308 square feet or less — Balance has been the butt of jokes about the region's out-of-control real-estate market.

But it turns out Charan Sethi, president of Tien Sher developments, wasn't kidding when he said the so-called micro-suites (targeted toward young first-time buyers earning $22,000 to $55,000 a year) would find their niche.

Within 24 hours of going on the market Saturday, Tien Sher had sold 27 condos.

"The project is catered to first-time buyers who were actually going to be living in the project, and that's exactly the market we ended up hitting," Sethi said. "I think the launch went rather well."

Buyers included the expected mix of investors and Surrey-based students (or their parents), and a surprising number of senior citizens attracted by the low prices of the condos, Sethi said.

A 297-square-foot condo at Balance starts at $109,900.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

A view of the dining/living room of a Balance micro-suite.
EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Holy crossover success, Batman! A fan snaps a photo of three of the better costumes at Fan Expo Vancouver on Sunday: Queen Amidala from Star Wars, left, and a marine and ghost from the video game StarCraft. LIAM BRITTEN/FOR METRO

Fans have a sci-fine old time at Fan Expo

The nerd empire strikes back.
Attendance up by one-third over last year, convention CEO says

Comic-book relief

"This year, as (fans have) stepped up, we really wanted to bring up our game.... It's been really phenomenal."

Jarrett Evan Samson, convention organizer for the Granville Street mainstay Golden Age Comics

LIAM BRITTEN
vancouver@metronews.ca

The force was strong in Vancouver this weekend.

Thousands of fans of comic books, science fiction, video games and other proudly geeky pursuits packed the convention centre's east building for the second annual Fan Expo.

Vancouver's biggest comic-book convention attracted a crowd of all ages, including Craig Longstaff and his two young sons.

"These guys are really into Star Wars and Lego.... It's really more for the kids than anything," he said, drawing howls of derisive laughter from his family. "All right, all right, I'm lying."

Elaborate costumes were plentiful, especially those inspired by Star Wars, Doctor Who, Adventure Time and superheroes.

"I saw a guy that looked exactly like (Batman villain) Bane. It was perfect," said Scarlett Aubrey, who was selling prints to raise money for an exchange program at Capilano University. "He took pictures with a four-year-old Batman. It was adorable."

Vendors lived long and prospered as attendees snapped up their wares. Golden Age Comics, a Granville Street mainstay, has had a booth at Fan Expo both years but said business was better this time around.

"We were there last year just to have a presence, but we weren't selling that much. We were showing off artwork," said Jarrett Evan Samson, convention organizer for Golden Age. "This year, as they've stepped up, we really wanted to bring up our game.... It's been really phenomenal."

Fan Expo CEO Steve Menzie said the convention will be back next year as a three-day event. He estimated that "well north" of 20,000 people attended this year, up by about one-third from last year.

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Vancouver pre-teen aims to fix disheartening youth vote

Twelve-year-old Jennifer Johnson takes part in a campaign event with Liberal candidate Gabby Kalaw during the first day of the British Columbia election campaign in Vancouver on April 16. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jennifer Johnson.
It hasn't been easy to fit homework around the busy campaign schedule, but Johnson's mom says she's glad her daughter pursues her passion

While many 12-year-olds are watching YouTube, texting friends or reading celebrity gossip magazines, British Columbia pre-teen Jennifer Johnson spends her spare time running a political campaign.

Johnson, who plans to be premier or prime minister someday, is knocking on doors, cold calling and attending political rallies to help her Vancouver-Kensington Liberal candidate campaign for the May 14 provincial election.

In an era when media, politicians and scholars bemoan the lack of youth involvement in political affairs, Johnson's interest is an anomaly.

It all stems from a Grade 5 school trip to the legislature in Victoria.

"I just thought, 'Wow, I want to be a part of this,'" Johnson said.

By jumping into the political pool, she made quite the splash among family and friends, who initially called her crazy.

It hasn't been easy to fit homework around the busy campaign schedule, but Johnson's mom Jackie Hollis said she's glad her daughter pursues her passion at a time when so many other young people have checked out of the political arena — or haven't entered it at all.

But it's unclear whether Johnson's infectious political spirit will stir others into widespread political action.

Less than a third of 18-to-34-year-olds eligible to vote in the last provincial election actually did so, according to Elections BC. That's compared to between 55 to 72 per cent of those aged 45 to 75.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP's Dix promising $24 million to farmers

NDP Leader Adrian Dix stopped for two sips of the Okanagan Spirits distillery's award-winning blackcurrant liqueur after making an agricultural policy announcement, which included economic moves to improve access to markets for B.C.'s craft-distillery industry.

Not known as a regular drinker, Dix also sipped a whisky sour made from local Okanagan fruit. Meanwhile, Premier Christy Clark ran the 10-kilometre Vancouver Sun Run.

Earlier Sunday, Dix visited an apple orchard in the Okanagan riding of Liberal Agriculture Minister Norm Letnick to announce a $24-million plan to increase growth in the province's agriculture industry.

The three-year program will add $8 million annually to the province's agriculture budget to help grow, feed and purchase B.C. products, Dix said.

The Liberal budget provides increased support for the agriculture sector, including an additional $4 million over three years to provide increased oversight for the Agricultural Land Commission and $20 million in carbon-tax relief for farmers and greenhouse growers, Letnick responded in a statement.

Quoted

"We know, you know that local food is good for you."
NDP Leader Adrian Dix

But Dix said the NDP program will ensure B.C. hospitals increase their local food purchases.

"We know, you know that local food is good for you," said Dix. "We know, you know that the time that you need the best quality of food is when you are sick."

Dix said he did not consider his plans to a subsidy.

"It seems to me to make sense that when government buys food it should give priority to local food, as they do in many other jurisdiction, as they do in Washington state, we should do here," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

British Columbia NDP Leader Adrian Dix tastes locally made blackcurrant liqueur during a campaign stop at Okanagan Spirits in Kelowna on Sunday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Campaigning

'Spend-o-Meter' launched

The B.C. Liberals have launched an elaborate election campaign stunt in a bid to play up fears of an NDP "tax and spend" agenda.

Finance Minister Michael de Jong was in Delta Sunday to unveil the "Spend-o-Meter," an electronic billboard near the Alex Fraser Bridge that counts up the alleged dollar figure of Adrian Dix's campaign promises.

The billboard had priced the NDP's platform at over $2 billion Sunday. "One week into the campaign, and all we've seen from Adrian Dix is how fast he can spend your money," de Jong said in a statement. METRO

Political colours

B.C. politicians woo 'ethnic vote' at Vaisakhi

Vancouver-area politicians added their banners to the sea of colours worn by the thousands of people who celebrated the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi on Saturday.

Political party hues of blue, red and green are out in full force on Surrey streets, yet orange was the predominant colour in the exuberant crowd.

While many of the orange turbans worn by South Asians are a religious statement and not a political one, many shouted support for NDP provincial and federal leaders Adrian Dix and Thomas Mulcair. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Loonies and toonies

Parking meters swallowing money: Drivers

Vancouver drivers are frustrated that parking meters continue to eat their money, but city officials say the problem was fixed long ago.

Last April, the city reserved $1 million of its capital budget to deal with thousands of parking meters that failed to recognize 2012 loonies and toonies.

But regular driver Christopher Wilson said he has ongoing issues with money being lost in parking meters and that it only makes "ridiculous" parking prices even higher.

CARA MCKENNA/THE CANADIAN PRESS, EXCLUSIVELY FOR METRO

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'90s flashback. Full House stars make appearance at Canucks game

Babies of the '80s cried "TGIF" Saturday night as two stars of the '90s sitcom Full House were discovered in the stands of a Vancouver Canucks game.

The smiling faces of Candace Cameron-Bure and Lori Loughlin appeared on the Rogers Arena Jumbotron just before the overtime shootout, in which the Canucks beat the Detroit Red Wings 2-1.

Cameron-Bure, who played D.J. Tanner on the hit show, and Loughlin, who acted the part of Aunt Becky, waved at the cameras while the theme song from the Friday-night sensation played over the loudspeakers.

Fans tweeted the episode in real time.

"Most exciting part of this game was seeing DJ Tanner on the jumbotron," Caylie King posted on Twitter account @CayKing.

"Full House fans will recall that Uncle Joey was a #RedWings fan. Kinda ironic that DJ and Aunt Becky are cheering for the #Canucks tonight," Andrew Ngo posted on Twitter handle @doods1484.

The Canucks also made note of the appearance on their official Twitter account and linked to a YouTube video of the celebs at the game.

ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO

Screengrab of Candace Cameron-Bure and Lori Loughlin at the Vancouver Canucks game on Saturday. YOUTUBE

Conference. Treatment of HIV as prevention captures the imagination of world's policy makers

Vancouver has hosted the International HIV Treatment as Prevention Workshop before, but this time feels different to Dr. Julio Montaner.

For the first time, foreign governments are sending high-ranking dignitaries to learn more about the made-in-Vancouver strategy that could pave the way for an AIDS-free generation.

The prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, health minister of Malawi and deputy health ministers from Uganda and Argentina are among the political representatives scheduled to join international HIV/AIDS experts at the workshop.

The award-winning treatment-as-prevention model argues that treating HIV patients with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) doubles as an effective tool against the spread of the virus.

With HAART patients maintaining a virtually undetectable viral load, the risk of transmission is cut by over 90 per cent.

An AIDS-free generation?

"It is possible. The only limitations today are courage and political will."

Dr. Julio Montaner, clinical director of the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, insists an AIDS-free generation is realistic

Despite receiving worldwide acclaim from the medical community, Montaner, clinical director for the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, says governments have been slow to catch on.

But that may be changing if the presence of so many dignitaries is anything to go by.

"Having ministers of health and political representatives coming here is a strong signal that they get it," said Montaner.

The 3rd International HIV Treatment as Prevention Workshop begins Monday.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Jordan Cash, owner of Cartems Donuterie, prepares an order for a customer inside his shop in Vancouver on Saturday. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local doughnut makers sprinkle fun into Food Network showdown

Did they taste sweet victory? Pair behind Downtown Eastside shop came up with 'crazy flavours' for $10,000 competition

CARA MCKENNA
The Canadian Press
exclusively for Metro

The founders of Cartems Donuterie can't yet say if they're rolling in dough after competing in a doughnut showdown with a $10,000 prize, but they do say the experience was sweet.

Downtown Eastside doughnut makers Jordan Cash and Rags Narine holed up for 14 hours for the Food Network Donut Showdown in Toronto last December, challenged to make doughnuts for a "high-school cafeteria" theme.

"We definitely made some crazy flavours, well, because we wanted to win," Narine said.

"Our goal is to have fun with doughnuts and push the envelope and challenge people's taste buds and find out exactly what they're willing to put in their mouth."

Cartems is well known among local foodies for unique flavours such as "maker's bourbon bacon" and "bee sting," which is Parmesan cheese with cracked pepper and honey glaze.

The pair competed against bakers from Suffolk, Va., and Oakland, Calif., making eight-dozen doughnuts in two rounds. Contest results will remain secret until the episode airs mid-May.

Cartems, which opened last year, has already outgrown its cramped location and will move west to a larger space in a few months. Once the show airs, it will serve the flavours revealed on-air.

District of North Vancouver bylaw prevents stratas from restricting rentals

The District of North Vancouver has neutered local stratas in an attempt to increase the municipality's rental housing stock — and it's hoping its neighbours will follow suit.

Councillors voted unanimously last week to prevent stratas from restricting the number of rental units in new strata developments that require rezoning. Coun. Mike Little said he hoped the measure could be rolled out across the region to mitigate Metro Vancouver's rental housing crunch.

However, the policy is unlikely to gain traction in Vancouver, which has the lowest vacancy rates in the region.

The city already has a host of policies to create 5,000 new units of market rental housing by 2021, such as providing incentives for developers to construct rental properties instead of condo towers. And those who rent from condo owners pay 40 per cent more on average than tenants in 100 per cent rental properties, Coun. Kerry Jang said.

ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

Argument against

City Coun. Kerry Jang suggested such a bylaw might infringe upon the rights of condo owners.

- "I think they should have the right to do what they need to do," he said.

Serbia's ruling parties vow to back deal with Kosovo

Protests. Agreement triggers outrage among nationalists; hundreds demand ouster of government

Serbia's ruling parties pledged Sunday to support a landmark agreement to normalize relations with former province Kosovo that could end years of tensions and put both states on a path to European Union membership.

Kosovo, considered by nationalists to be the medieval cradle of the Serbian state and religion, declared independence in 2008. Belgrade has pledged never to recognize the secession.

The EU brokered the tentative deal in Brussels on Friday in talks with the prime ministers of Serbia and Kosovo. The agreement would give Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leadership authority over rebel Kosovo Serbs. In return, the minority Serbs would get wide autonomy within Kosovo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters wave Serbian flags in front of the monument of late Serbian Duke Mihailo Obrenovic in Belgrade Sunday, during a protest against recognition of Kosovo as an independent state. DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India. 5-year-old girl who was raped improves, but protests rage in New Delhi

The condition of a five-year-old girl who was allegedly kidnapped, raped and tortured by a man and then left alone in a locked room in India's capital for two days has improved, a doctor said Sunday, as protests continued over the authorities' handling of the case.

For the second day, hundreds of people protested Sunday outside police headquarters in the capital, angry over allegations that police had ignored complaints by the girl's parents that she was missing.

An Indian girl joins protests against the rape of a young girl in New Delhi Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 100 university students defied police restrictions and held a demonstration at New Delhi's iconic India Gate monument late Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan. Taliban cut off hand, foot of two villagers

Insurgents killed six police officers at a checkpoint and a suicide bomber killed three civilians at a shopping bazaar in separate attacks Sunday in eastern Afghanistan.

In other violence, the Taliban cut a hand and foot off each of two villagers they accused of helping escort coalition convoys, a spokesman for the provincial chief in western Herat province said.

April has been the deadliest month this year for security forces and Afghan and foreign civilians. According to a tally, 222 people have been killed in violence this month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Justice minister quits: Official

A government spokesman says Egypt's justice minister Ahmed Mekky has submitted his resignation after the president's supporters engaged in violent street clashes with opponents over calls to "cleanse the judiciary." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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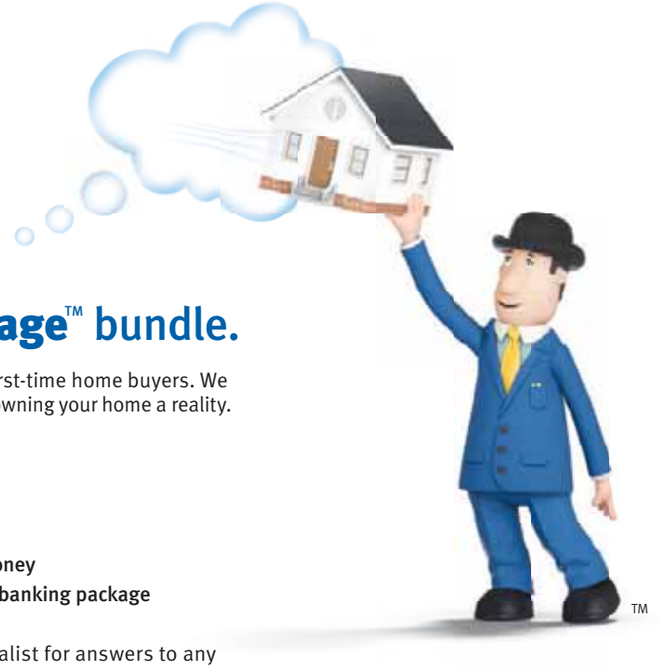

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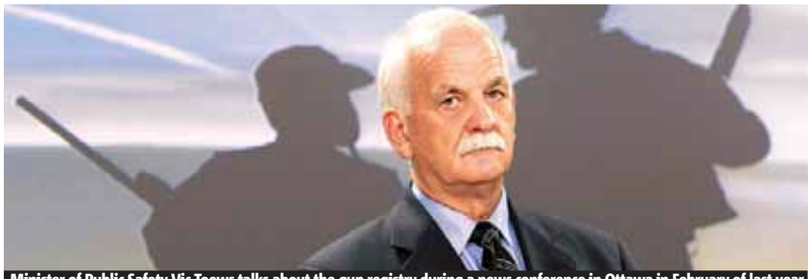
Splashy gun-registry events nixed in late 2012



Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews talks about the gun registry during a news conference in Ottawa in February of last year. Public servants spent a month last fall preparing two splashy announcements heralding the destruction of the long-gun registry data only to have the events cancelled at the last moment without explanation. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No explanation. At last moment, major national events became 'a note under the door'

Public servants spent a full month, at the "urgent" request of Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, preparing two splashy announcements heralding the destruction of the long-gun registry data — only to have the events cancelled at the last moment without explanation.

The final deletion of millions of registry records last Oct. 31 could be seen as a crowning achievement for a Conservative government that had campaigned against the registry for over a decade. Instead, Toews confirmed the destruction during a closed-door meeting in Regina in a manner that one puzzled gun advocate likened to sliding "a note under the door."

As late as mid-afternoon on Oct. 29, less than 24 hours before the first event, an email was circulated with fully developed plans attached for the two events. And then, nothing, not even a news release.

Questions about why the communications material was prepared but not delivered were ignored by Toews' office this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public safety

Toews: We can learn from Boston

There are lessons to be learned by the explosions at the Boston Marathon, Canada's public safety minister said on Sunday.

Canadian security forces are equipped and prepared to respond to these kinds of incidents, Vic Toews told CTV.

One important lesson is that all levels of policing and government must work together in the event of a terrorist attack, Toews said. "We can always learn from this type of horrific experience."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boston bombings. Suspects were planning more attacks, police say

Investigators believe that two brothers suspected in the Boston Marathon bombing were likely planning other attacks based on the cache of weapons uncovered, the city's police commissioner said on Sunday.

As Boston-area residents came together in prayer and reflection, the surviving suspect in the bombing lay hospitalized under guard, apparently in no shape for interrogation.

What 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev will say, and when, is unclear. He remained in serious condition two days after being pulled wounded from a boat in a backyard. The capture came at the end of a tense Friday that began with his brother, Tamerlan, dying battling with police.

There was no immediate word on when Tsarnaev might be charged and what those charges would be. The twin bombings killed three people and wounded more than 180.

Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis told Face the Nation on CBS that authorities found an arsenal of homemade explosives after Friday's shootout between police and the two suspects.

"We have reason to believe, based upon the evidence that was found at that scene — the explosions, the explosive ordnance that was unexploded and the firepower that they had — that they were going to attack other individuals," Davis said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourners attend a memorial for victims on Sunday near the site of the Boston Marathon bombings. KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

War. Vets visit South Korea

JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

Ret. Cpl. Frank Smyth said he wasn't trying to be a hero when he tried relentlessly to join the army two weeks after his 17th birthday, only to be turned away due to his age.

"Even though I kept paying people with bottles of booze to change my records, I kept getting caught," the Korean war veteran said on Saturday. "Someone said, 'Well, why did you want to go?' It's because that's where all my buddies were going."

Smyth is one of 36 Korean War veterans flying to South Korea — some for the first time since the armistice was signed in 1953 — who were gathered in Vancouver before the trip.

Smyth finally arrived in Korea to support his friends after the armistice as a military policeman patrolling the DMZ at night, hearing the unsettling clanking of enemy tanks beyond the border.

The DMZ will be the first visit for this delegation on Tuesday, and Smyth said it will be an emotional one for him.

"Some of these men will be even more emotional than me because they laid in the dirt and fired weapons and held them off in the battle of Kapyong," Smyth said.

"These guys really put it on the line."

Honouring our heroes

Veterans Affairs Canada has declared 2013 the Year of the Korean War Veteran.

- A delegation of veterans was invited to participate in a series of ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the fighting.
- The 36 veterans were given certificates of recognition for their service by Veterans Affairs Minister Steven Blaney.

Armed forces

Military probing its handling of sex-assault complaints

The Department of National Defence is investigating its handling of sexual assault complaints involving a convicted former medical technician who is facing 31 new charges.

Complaints involving James Wilks were mishandled, says a lawyer for one of his victims. Phillip Millar alleges Wilks's chain of command knew of the complaints but did little to act on them.

A spokeswoman with the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service would only say it started looking into the matter last month "to determine if appropriate action was taken by the chain of command of ... James Wilks when staff was made aware of his actions in the workplace."

Those actions became the focus of a court martial in 2011 involving the allegations of three women. Wilks was found guilty of one count of sexual assault, four counts of breach of trust and was sentenced to nine months in jail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Redford talks election night

Memories. Alberta premier reflects on 2012's uneasy campaign that ended in a Tory re-election

One year after Alison Redford won her first popular mandate, the Alberta premier remembers not only voting day but also the uneasy feeling just before the writ was dropped.

It was last March 26. Redford stood in her cabinet meeting room and realized she might not see it again.

"It was a cold, dull day," she said, recalling the weather.

In more ways than one.

The Tories started the election from behind, reeling from scandals on health care and a legislature committee getting paid handsomely for not meeting at all.

Four weeks later, on April 23, a bone-tired Redford sat with 10 other aides and friends in a suite in Calgary's Westin Hotel to watch the results come in.

The only sure thing seemed to be a long night.

Her husband, Glen, and preteen daughter, Sarah, were in the suite. Sarah wanted to stay up and watch the results. No, said Redford. You need to go home soon and get to bed.

She also wanted Sarah to leave early "because I didn't know what the results were going to be, so I wanted to think about what I was going to say to her if it didn't turn out the way that I wanted it to."

It wasn't a long night after all.

The key battleground of Calgary went mainly Tory and, provincewide, Redford's team captured 61 seats to 17 for the Wildrose.

Sarah was there to see it.

"She pulled me aside and (whispered) 'Mommy, I'm very proud of you.' And I started crying," laughed Redford. "That was my first official congratulations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is shown during an interview in her office at the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton on April 17. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pastor delivers makeshift sermon after Texas blast

Churchgoers huddle to pray after a service for the First Baptist Church in a field Sunday, four days after an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas.
CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the first Sunday after a fertilizer-plant explosion levelled part of a tiny Texas town, pastor John Crowder stood atop a long flatbed overlooking a hayfield and spoke to his congregation.

Crowder's First Baptist Church in West remains blocked off as investigators work on the scene of Wednesday's blast that killed at least 14 people and injured 200. So about 100 people sat in white folding chairs Sunday morning, while others carried their own.

"We have lost our friends and neighbours," Crowder told the audience. "We have lost the safety and comfort of our homes. But as scary as this is, we don't have to be afraid."

Authorities have not yet identified what caused the blast, which was so powerful it registered as a small earthquake. Assistant state fire marshal Kelly Kistner said the blast left "a large crater."

The explosion destroyed about 50 homes and severely damaged a nursing home and other buildings nearby. Kistner said all fires have been extinguished at the explosion scene and the remaining fertilizer tanks at West Fertilizer Co. are not a danger.

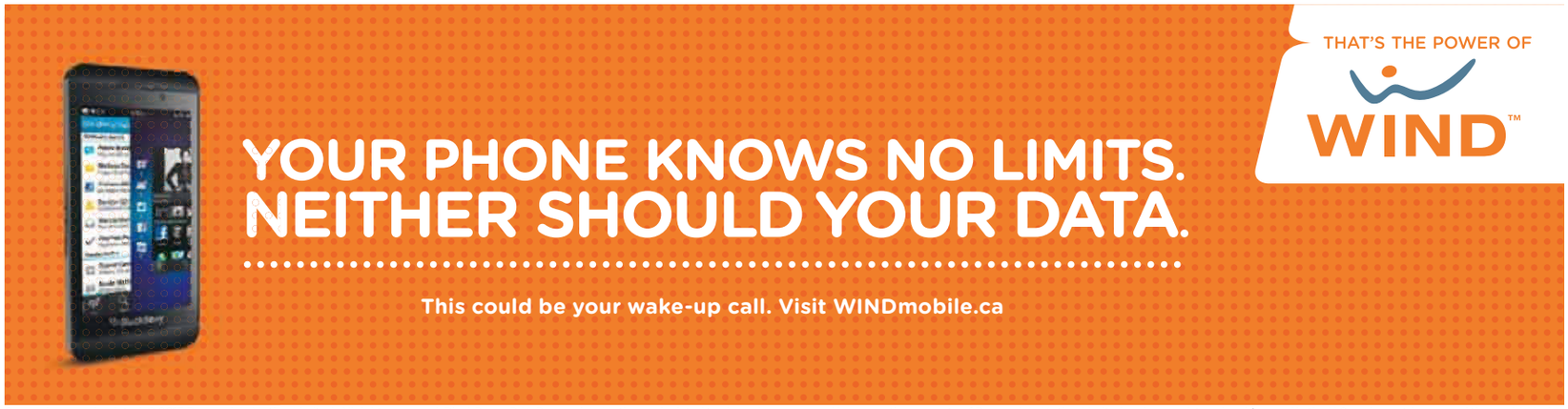
Some of the people who attended Sunday's outdoor service wore T-shirts calling on others to "pray for West."

"Every time I close my eyes, all I can think about is the explosion," said Edi Botello, a senior at West High School. "People running around. People evacuating. There was one point I couldn't even talk. I just stuttered."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The damage

- An apartment building just across the railroad tracks from the plant appeared to bear the brunt of the explosion, according to a pool report.
- The building's roof was collapsed, its windows blown out and chunks of concrete from the plant littered the space between the tracks and the apartments.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The final steps to closing the deal

Walk-through. A final inspection of the house you are going to buy is well worth the effort

LESLEY SCORGIE
For Metro

When you arrive at the property, it's critical you put all excitement aside and examine your home carefully. JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Your offer to purchase has been accepted and the bank has approved your mortgage loan.

But before you sign your mortgage documents and your lawyer advances the funds, it's important to have a final walk-through a few days before closing (realtor.ca recommends 48 hours prior).

A final walk-through is not a home inspection nor is it another opportunity to negotiate further with the seller or new-home builder. The primary purpose is to ensure the property is in the condition in which you agreed to purchase it.

When you arrive at the property with your realtor or new-home builder, it's critical you put all excitement aside and examine your home carefully and objectively.

Take your offer to purchase with you and review the list of items you asked to remain. For example, if you negotiated to include the home electronic system and appliances, check that what remains is indeed what you negotiated for and that it hasn't been swapped with something else.

On the flip side, if you had negotiated for items to be removed like debris from the yard, ensure that it's gone.

If your home inspector suggested repairs, maintenance or replacement of certain items, and you negotiated with the seller to complete those tasks, check that it's done. Test the following additional items:

- Turn on all lights and fixtures
- Run the appliances
- Run water from all faucets and check for leaks
- Flush toilets
- Open garage doors
- Inspect all doors, windows and floors
- Run the furnace and air conditioning unit
- If it's a new home, check to see that your list of selected finishings (floors, fixtures, and more) has been completed

If in the final walk-through you discover something materially wrong with the property (typically, it must be a few thousand dollars worth of damage), your lawyer and/or realtor will step in to negotiate and resolve the issues.

Though you are probably running around frantically trying to close your deal, don't miss your final walk-through. It's your last opportunity to ensure you are getting what you have paid for.

Enlist the seller's help

- The seller can be of tremendous help in the final walk-through. If they are open to it, have them walk you through the home and explain how systems like heating, cooling or electronics work. However, it's important that you get some time alone without the seller so you can take time and objectively evaluate the condition of the property.

Once you have moved your things into the house, your first phone call should be to your insurance company. JACK HOLLINGSWORTH/DIGITAL VISION/THINKSTOCK

To-do list as you move in

When I took possession of my inner-city condo in last June, I was surprised at how much work was involved in changing my address, setting up utilities and arranging for tax payments. So to ensure I didn't miss anything, I created a to-do list on my iPad that I carried with me until I had completed every item.

If you haven't already done so, once you have moved your things into the house, besides phoning the local pizza joint for delivery of your favourite pie, your first phone call should be to your insurance company. The insurance provider will lead you through a series of questions to understand the types of insurance that you will need and how much. Pay close attention to policy details and deductibles (the larger the deductible, the lower the annual premium). You can set up automatic payment for insurance monthly or annually.

Next, call your local utility provider and get your electrical, heating and water services connected. Inquire about various payment options and select what suits your budget. For example, heating/cooling bills can sometimes be set to a budget program whereby the amount is the same each month regardless of the season and amount of gas you use. This can be helpful for new homeowners on a strict budget. But paying a variable amount each month may work better for others.

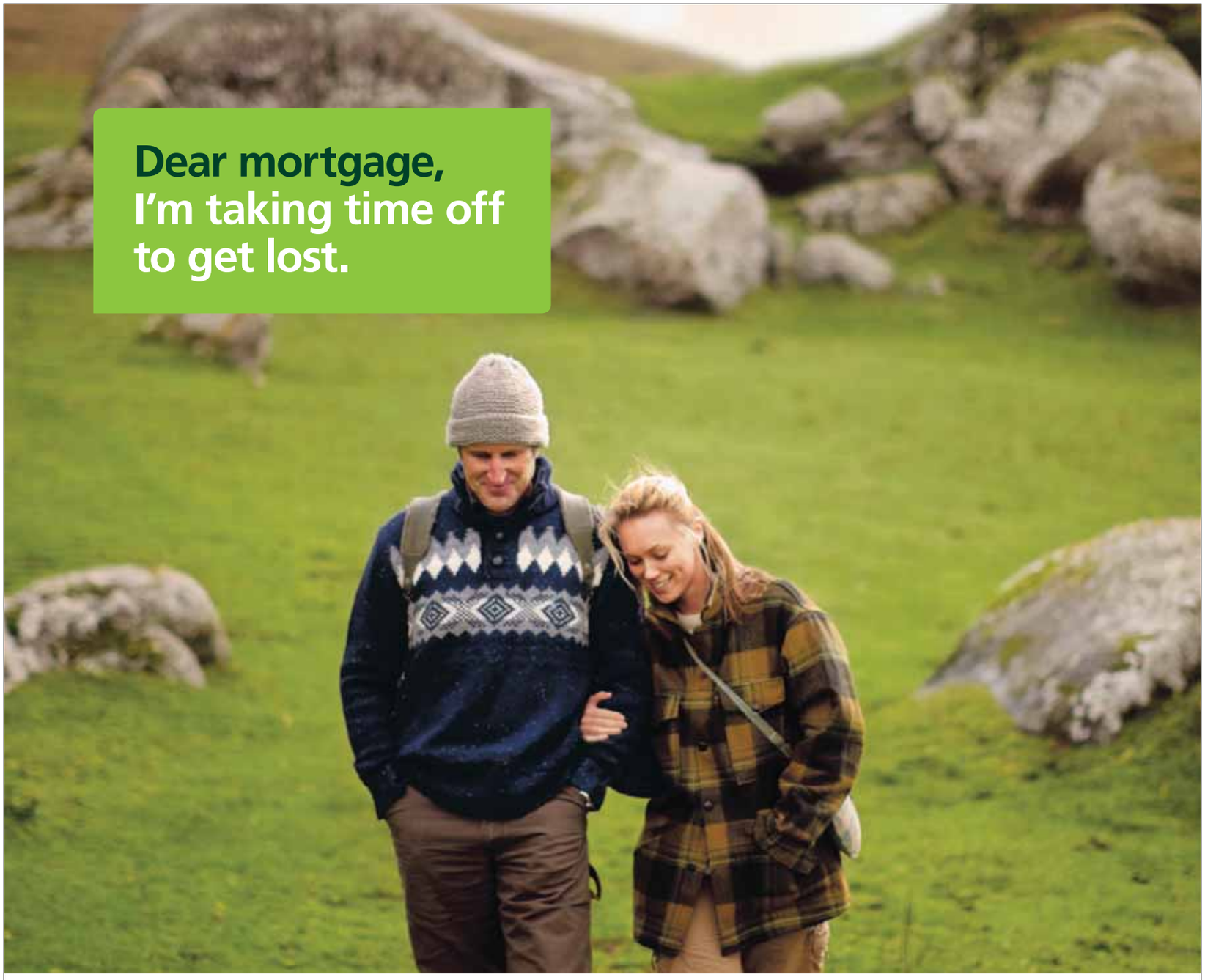
Internet, phone and cable will need to be set up if you use those services. Hunt around for the best deal — often it's cheaper when these services are bundled together.

Property taxes can typically be paid monthly or annually. By calling the appropriate department in your city, you can register for a property tax payment plan that will work best for your cash flow. Property taxes are calculated based on a percentage of the value of the property each year. So pay close attention to the property tax assessment that is mailed to you annually, and if you don't agree with the amount (valuation put on the home), you have the right to challenge it.

To best manage the operating costs associated with your home, establish a budget and stick to it. If you are stumped on how to prepare one, use templates from Mint.com, Google documents or your bank. LESLEY SCORGIE

Phone ahead

- Changing your address can be done prior to the moving trucks arriving. Call your bank, utility companies, family, friends, Canada Revenue Agency, and more. For a fee of less than $100, Canada Post can put a mail forward notification on your old address, which will redirect your mail for a certain period of time.



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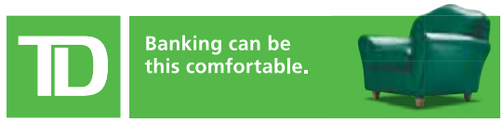

[1] Some conditions apply and subject to approval.

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Wastin' away ... Bands try out for Margaritaville

The Boca Chica Conchestra play conch shells to Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville in Key West, Fla. An Atlantic City complex will feature all things Buffett, including a giant blender to welcome guests. FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Four days and 50 versions of Margaritaville later, talent scouts for the Jimmy Buffett-themed restaurant, music and gambling complex that will open next month have a pretty good idea which acts they'll hire to perform there.

Bands, duos and solo artists travelled from hours away to audition last week for a prized entertainment slot at the $35-million complex scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend at Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J.

Requirements include the ability to play a wide variety of music, to accommodate audience requests, and, yes, to know at least a few Buffett tunes. Not surprisingly, most of the acts opted for his tropical ode to frozen drinks and that mythical lost shaker of salt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Open for business after severe earthquake in China

A woman opens her business in a shelter near her damaged shop, Sunday, after the earthquake in Yuxi village in Lushan county in southwest China. Saturday's earthquake in Sichuan killed more than 200 people and injured more than 11,000, China's Xinhua News Agency said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian billionaire tycoon Alisher Usmanov is seen in his Moscow office in 2004. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

New billionaire tops U.K. rich list

Alisher Usmanov.
Russian tycoon has interests in mining and Internet companies

After eight years at the top of an annual survey of the wealthiest people in Britain, steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal has conceded his place to Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov.

The Sunday Times, which publishes the list, says Mittal's fortune suffered a 21 per cent fall in the past year to £10 billion ($16 billion) as share values in his ArcelorMittal steel business shrank. The Indian-born tycoon dropped to fourth on this year's list.

Usmanov, who owns interests in Russian mining and Internet companies and a stake in Britain's Arsenal soccer club, is valued at £13.3 billion. He owns several homes in the U.K.

In total, the 1,000 wealthiest people named on the list boast a fortune of £450 billion, the highest on record.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal
GETTY IMAGES FILE

TSX

Traders await earnings reports after dismal week

The Toronto stock market could be set to move further into negative territory this week as a slew of resource companies deliver quarterly earnings reports.

The TSX had a dismal week, closing down 2.2 per cent, leaving the main Toronto index down 2.95 per cent year to date, as a new round of worry sparked a selloff concentrated on resource stocks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE WORLD AWAITS

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Pot: Not healthy, but should it be illegal?

Baked not shaked.

That pretty much describes the state of the 20,000 or so participants at 4/20, the annual downtown marijuana fest on Saturday, as they actively celebrated all things pot without being molested by the cops.

Well, as active as stoners get.

Certainly, the illegal activity was breath-taking. "Vendors" (formerly known as "pushers") sold bags, joints, oils, cookies, brownies, not to mention bongs, pipes and eye drops.

If there was any doubt that the war on drugs is over, it has vanished into a purple haze.

The cops just hung around, enjoying the vibe, while thousands of people violated the Criminal Code at will. And not just here, but all over the country, including Parliament Hill. You could barely see the Peace Tower through the smoke.

URBAN COMPASS

Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

Most people in British Columbia, according to various polls, believe it's time to decriminalize, legalize and/or commercialize marijuana, and now that Washington and Colorado have voted to legalize, the consensus appears to be: Get on with it.

To those of us who came of age when people were put in jail for years for simple possession of a single joint, this whole post-war atmosphere is hard to handle. Or maybe it's just that decades of smoking pot makes you paranoid. PTSD: Post-THC-Smoking-Disorder.

Not only does this generation inhale, they do so in broad daylight, on the front lawn (or what used to be a lawn) of the Vancouver Art Gallery. No wonder the gallery is plotting its escape to the periphery of downtown. What else are you going to do when 20,000 stoners with the munchies make themselves at home on your front steps?

By the look of the participants, they could spend more time in the sunlight. If you lie prone in darkened rooms watching entire seasons of Lost in a single session, you have a tendency to look a little worse for the wear. Not to mention all that coughing.

Which leads us to the dirty little secret of marijuana. It's not really good for you. In fact, a strong argument can be made that it's bad for you. Dr. Meldon Kahan, medical director of the Substance Use Service at the Women's College Hospital in Toronto, made that strong argument to a reporter recently: "There are toxins in cannabis smoke that are carcinogens and that accelerate heart disease. Smoked cannabis is addicting, unsafe during pregnancy and especially dangerous for young people, in terms of triggering psychosis, depression and mood disorders."

Apart from that, it's OK.

Still, when unpleasant side effects include a criminal record, it's time for a review. Considering the vast array of mood-altering substances available either with or without a prescription is staggering, one more will hardly undermine the fabric of society.

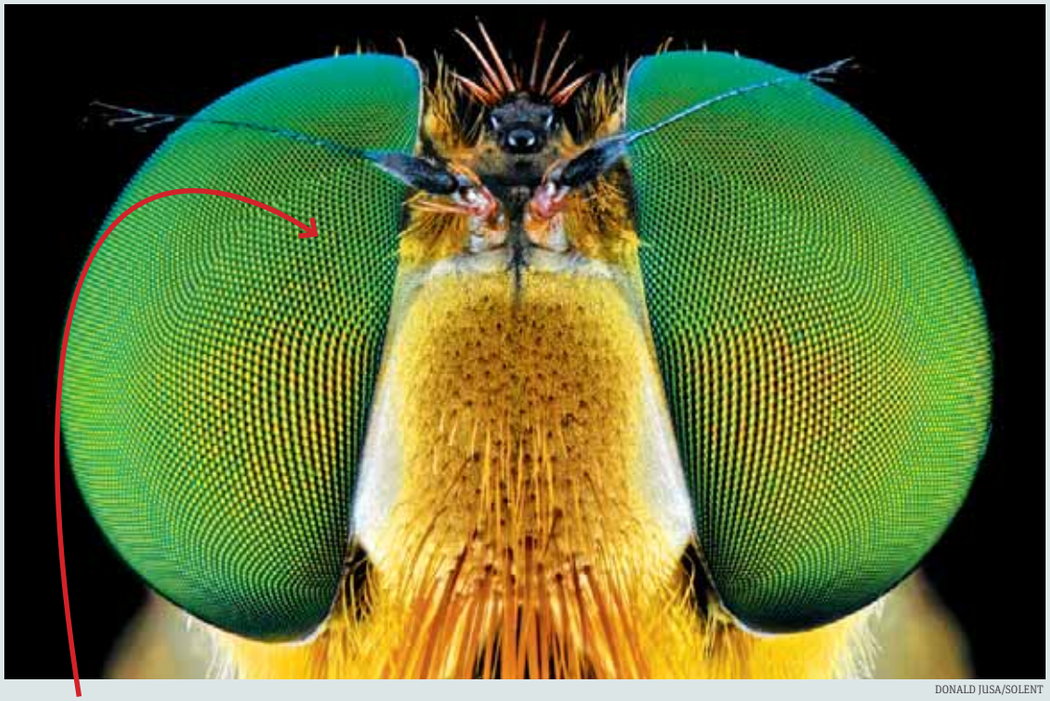
In fact, how long will it be before somebody figures out how to roll that up and smoke it?

Bad buzz

"Smoked cannabis is addicting, unsafe during pregnancy, and especially dangerous for young people, in terms of triggering psychosis, depression and mood disorders." Dr. Meldon Kahan, medical director of the Substance Use Service at Toronto's Women's College Hospital

ZOOM

This will leave you bug-eyed



DONALD JUSA/SOLENT

Just another day around the office

The robber fly isn't camera-shy at all as it stands still to be photographed in intricate detail. Amateur photographer Donald Jusa from Indonesia used the concept of macro photography to create this unique picture. The 32-year-old geologist at a local coal mining company found these critters to snap near his office. METRO

Still photography

"The insect had to be completely silent and steady so that the photographs could be considered successful."

Donald Jusa, 32, geologist and amateur photographer from Bandung, Indonesia. He said he used a focus stacking technique which combines multiple images taken with different focuses to capture the detail and depth of focus in the image. He added that he was standing three centimetres away from the subject.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Should video games be considered art? Kidding! Who cares? The business grew to rival Hollywood without such lofty labels and will thrive without them. Either way, there's room for thoughtful criticism from people who don't go by Smokmadbluntz420 online. Here are three podcasts available on iTunes where you can find it.

Gamers With Jobs:

A nice mix of chatter about games, both video and board, from a cast of industry types with enough pull to book guests like Ken Levine, the brains behind the BioShock series.

Thirtyish Gamers:

Kids with controller in hand who grew up to become adults with controller in hand: The perfect mixture for a show that's equal parts sepia-toned nostalgia, sharp discussion about today's games and ambitious speculation about the future.

CAGcast:

If the two above sound a little too serious, this is your jam. An industry-savvy trio reviews new releases and provides the goods on where to secure the best deals in gaming. Add a dash of parenting horror stories and the quirks of living in Tokyo and you get one of the most reliably funny hours of the week.

Letters

RE: BPA In Most Canadians' Urine, Effects Unknown, published April 17

In the piece, bisphenol A or BPA is identified as being found in plastic "food and beverage containers."

Within the context of beverage containers used to package bottled water and other non-alcoholic consumer beverages, this statement requires clarification.

BPA is not used in the production of PET plastic-based beverage containers, which have been in use by the Canadian beverage industry for more than 25 years.

According to Health Canada, BPA is used to "make a hard, clear plastic known as polycarbonate, which is used in many consumer products, including reusable water bottles and baby bottles. It is also found in epoxy resins, which act as a protective lining on the inside of metal-based food and beverage cans."

Health Canada further states that "current research tells us the general public need not be concerned. In general, most Canadians are exposed to very low levels of bisphenol A, therefore, it does not pose a health risk."

John B. Challinor II
Nestlé Waters Canada
Guelph, Ont.

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Carly Rae Jepsen was a big winner Sunday night, taking home the award for single of the year. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

I just won a ... Juno, baby

Weekend of Jepsen.
Pop singer takes home hardware for her album and bubblegum hit

The 42nd Juno Awards dialled in on Carly Rae Jepsen, celebrating the cheerful singer/songwriter and her rollercoaster summer smash Call Me Maybe with three trophies that all came at the expense of the teen superstar who helped discover her: Justin Bieber.

Jepsen had the biggest haul of the weekend with marquee wins for single, album and pop album of the year — all categories in which the absent 19-year-old pop pinup/tabloid spectacle from Stratford, Ont., was also nominated — at a briskly paced Prairies party at the Brandt Centre.

The Mission, B.C., native seemed particularly stunned that her gold-selling DayGlo valentine to '80s pop Kiss triumphed in the biggest category of the evening, album of the year, over those multi-platinum efforts from Bieber and Celine Dion.

"I'm sorta speechless," she said, having thanked Bieber himself in a previous speech. "This is amazing. Thank you so much."

Seventy-eight-year-old Montreal troubadour Leonard Cohen also had a good weekend in the Saskatchewan capital, wresting his second Juno of the year — fifth of his career — for songwriter of the year after releasing his platinum-certified Old Ideas. The award was accepted by his son, singer Adam Cohen.

While Bieber might have been licking his wounds after another so-so night of Juno returns, he could be comforted with his fourth career Juno win, this time for the fan choice award. Surely, if the Junos' voting bloc doesn't consider the recently troubled teen worthy of celebration, his droves of devotees still do — it's the third time they've carried him to that particular honour.

Serena Ryder

And Marianas Trench, the dramatic Vancouver pop outfit, won group of the year despite missing out on other nominations for their platinum concept record Ever After, while 27-year-old frontman Josh Ramsay also shared in the elation at Jepsen's single of the year win given his co-write of her Skittles-sweet smash.

With the gala's youthful bent, Serena Ryder actually seemed a grizzled veteran next to some of her newbie peers. She won adult alternative album of the year — her fourth career Juno — for her gold-certified Harmony and the husky-voiced singer/songwriter with the astonishing vocal range put in a roof-rattling performance of her propulsive recent hit Stompa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For a full list of winners visit metronews.ca

Juno fever

Jepsen the star of Saturday

The Juno Awards celebrated Canadian music stars old and new Saturday night as first-time winner Carly Rae Jepsen and veteran Leonard Cohen both scored major prizes while moody R&B singer the Weeknd led the field at a dinner gala where the bulk of the trophies were handed out.

Jepsen, the weekend's premiere nominee with a five-category haul, took pop album of the year over a stacked field that included headline-snatching superstar Justin Bieber, while Cohen won artist of the year over the both of them — his fourth career Juno. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ALAN SILFEN

Talking life:

Interview. Metro's special guests talk about fathers and sons, girls and Jada, Bieber and hip hop, and why Jaden won't party

ELISABETH BRAW
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"Will's here," says an assistant.

No kidding. His laugh — familiar from 100 episodes of Fresh Prince — booms across the Hollywood soundstage as he arrives to meet me.

Despite being the single biggest star on the planet, with a net worth of $200 million, Smith still comes off as happy-go-lucky — and happy to laugh at his own jokes.

His son, Jaden, follows behind, serious, yet gracious. A box-office draw in his own right, after The Karate Kid, the 14-year-old toplines their new film After Earth, set 1,000 years into the future.

In it, Jaden's character braves a planet overgrown by wild creatures to save his injured father, played by Smith.

In an intimate, hour-long chat, the two discussed working together, Jaden's musical style and the inevitable: life with mom.

That very week, Jada Pinkett Smith posted a Facebook missive, clarifying earlier statements about her and Will's "open relationship," calling it instead a "grown relationship."

Smith talked about that as best he could, given that his young son sat right there.

You guys work together, live together — but online, I see videos of Jaden skateboarding, talking about girls—
Jaden: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

So I wondered—
Will: Wait. (To Jaden) You be talking about girls a whole lot?

Jaden: In interviews, Dad. About them. I'm not online, like, "Hey, girls, hello!" (Mimes taking a photo of himself) Tweet!

Will, how aware are you of what Jaden's doing?
Will: Not much at all. Not much at all. That's what I like him to think. (Laughs) I have a group of Men in Black that keep up pretty good.
Jaden: This is what I've realized: No matter what I do or how I do it, he knows 100 per cent of what's going on.

Will: (Laughs)

Jaden: There's no point in hiding anything because he knows. Whether he acts on it or not, he knows.

How do you know he knows?
Jaden: I just know that he knows (Both laugh).

Will: I heard Jaden's friend one time, they were sitting around, talking about something and I came in the room and said, "Hi" and walked out of the room and paused for a second and I hear the friend saying, "Dude, I'm telling you, he knows! He knows!" (Both laugh uproariously)

When was the last time you were punished, Jaden?
Will: We don't do punishment. The way that we deal with our kids is, they are responsible for their lives. Our concept is, as young as possible, give them as much control over their lives as possible and the concept of punishment, our experience has been — it has a little too much of a negative quality. So when they do things — and you know, Jaden, he's done things — you can do anything you want as long as you can explain to me why that was the right thing to do for your life.

Jaden: It works pretty well.

But most teenagers aren't naturally introspective. Jaden, do you find that you ask yourself deep questions about your behaviour and acting accordingly?
Jaden: Yeah. Other teenagers go to parties and sometimes I be like, "Why am I here right now?" And most of the time, I just leave right then and there. Some things I don't like to do, that other teenagers do. Everyone thinks that since you make movies, you go to parties, and I like to party, but not normal teenage parties.

Will and Jaden Smith

ALAN SILFEN

The second coming

"I mean, people are already telling me I look like him, that I talk and walk like him. If I rapped like him too, people would be like, 'Let's go on the Fresh Prince tour.'" Jaden Smith

Are you missing out on a good ol' fashioned American childhood?
Jaden: Not at all. I go out and skate every night. Hang out with people, skate, hang out with more people, skate to their house.

Will: (To Jaden) What do you see as the purpose and point? So you're not going out and partying — what's the purpose, what's the point, what are you doing?

Jaden: It's not like I don't want to go to parties because I need to study and go to college; I just don't wanna go. If they're gonna play house music, I'm maybe interested, but if it's some random place and they're playing Waka Flocka Flame...

You're anti-generic.
Jaden: Exactly.

Will, how and when did you and Jada decide Jaden could handle a full-fledged movie career?
Will: You can never be certain. You have an idea. You can feel your kids, but until the things in their lives start to unfold and the things they cause begin to have effects, you can never totally see. But we felt that because they were choosing a business that we were both successful in, then at a minimum, we could give good advice.

You used the phrase "they were choosing" but did they choose? Jaden, you were going to the red carpet when you were in diapers.
Jaden: It was not going to the red carpet so people could see us, it was going to the red carpet because we had free tickets.

Will: That's what our life was. The family has a movie so they're going.

Jaden: It started with, our mom is going to the red carpet, she doesn't want to leave us with somebody so she's going to bring us. Then it got to us walking. And then it got to us starring in movies.

Jaden, your music is trippy. It's far from Will's feel-good beats. Is that consciously your own thing?
Jaden: I mean, people are already telling me I look like him, that I talk and walk like him. If I rapped like him too, people would be like, 'Let's go on the Fresh Prince tour.'

Fresh Prince and Fresh Prince Jr. — I would go to that tour.
Jaden: I had to go way left with it because if I came out with a song with me and a bunch of girls in a car with sunglasses on (the Pacific Coast Highway) going, 'Yeah!' they'd go, 'That's the average thing to do.' Instead I came out with the video for The Coolest and people were like, 'Whoa! The camera's going upside down.'

Will, can you even connect to his music, at your age?
Will: At 14, his mind is so much deeper and more complex than my mind was at 14 years old. Lyrically, where he goes and what he creates and how the things are conceptually is beyond what I could create at 14 years old.

Or even later in your career. Miami is not telling a complex story.
Will: Right. Poetically, he's beyond where I ever go to with my music. My strength is ideas. And record structure. I knew how to make records in the way you get to the hook when the crowd wants it.

Jaden: That's what you're really good at. You could go anywhere and be like, "When I say hip, you say hop," and they'll all say it! If I go up there, I'll say, "Alright guys, I'm gonna read you a Shakespearean sonnet real quick, here I go." (Both laugh)
The funniest part to me is the music, the old school sound of the music that I have in some of my songs is like what his old school beats used to sound like. It's just different. We're the opposite, but similar in some ways.

The DNA.
Will: That's my seed. Remember where you came from.

Jaden, would you produce Will's album?
Jaden: If you decided, like, "Alright Jaden, I'm serious, I want to make an album" —

Will: Oh, if I was serious?

Jaden: I mean, you have movies to make. Businesses you want to start. You're a busy man.

Will: I see how it is.

Jaden may be too big for you, Will.
Will: I know, I know. He's very serious and very focused and has a very rare combination of talent, desire, willingness and means. Which very, very rarely do those things come together and converge in the proper timing. So I'm excited to see what he decides to do with his life.

Jaden, what happens when you're 18 and Will kicks you out of the house.
Jaden: We'll probably work together till he retires and he probably won't retire.

Will: No we've been talking about, he's been thinking about becoming an emancipated minor.

Jaden: Just thoughts that pop into my head.

They made a movie about that — a girl divorced her parents.
Jaden: Really!

Rent that, get some tips.
Will: No, it's not like that. More the idea that, I want him to have as much command and freedom if he is willing to accept responsibility. Those are two concepts that are inexorably bound. So he's a very responsible young man so he's entitled to the maximum freedom. (To Jaden) I said "inexorably." You heard that? Someone Google that for Jaden.

Justin Bieber, who you're both friends with, has been in the press for some growing pains. Did you learn anything from his last six months?
Will: I talk to Justin once a week and Justin is suffering from immature adulthood in the media and surrounding world. Justin's not doing anything that a normal 19-year-old wouldn't want to do and wouldn't need to do to become a man. The transition from boyhood to manhood is a very difficult transition that he's handling on a world stage better than 95 per cent of the people who talk s— about him.

Bieber's on Twitter. Jaden, you're on Twitter. Will, what's up?
Jaden: He doesn't have one. Usually there'll be people who have a Twitter. He doesn't have one. He likes Facebook.

Will: I got 44 million people on Facebook. I'm just saying. I don't know how many people you got on Twitter.

Jaden: I knew you were going to say that.

Will: I'm just saying, I don't know how many people you got. How many people?

Jaden: Four million.

Will: Four million. Yeah. I got that after my first number.

Jaden: I feel like people on Facebook will just randomly follow just anybody.

Will: (Laughs hysterically)

Jada's on Facebook.
Will: Oh!

Jaden: Oh!

Will + Jaden: Ohhhhhh!

Will: Oh, Mommy be going in!

Jaden: My mom goes in on Facebook! She goes in!

Is she aware other people can read what she writes?
(Both laugh loudly)

Jaden: She'll be like—

Will: She'll call a family meeting.

Will + Jaden: (Doing Jada impression) "I'm posting this on Facebook!"

Jaden: (continuing impression) "I don't care what people say. If we get hit for this, this is what the truth of the world is." Uh, OK mom. She'll be on the phone with a manager, "I don't care what they said, I'm posting this on Facebook." I think she should write a book.

Will: Jada is very serious and opinionated and she loves Facebook because it's the only place she's ever had where she's felt like all of her can be received. She's struggled her whole life where only a part of her is OK.

In her posts, she can take a generality and break it down into a truth. She posted recently about you having a "grown relationship."
Will: A "grown relationship." (Looks down.)

Anything to add?
Will: She put some serious, hardcore truth out there. (Pauses) And I think, the five minutes we have left, aren't gonna be enough to cover it.

OK, on to the Earth Day issue then?
Will: Yes! Earth Day! Please!

The future. 24/7 health monitors, no cars: how we'll live our lives in 30 years, when Jaden Smith is his father's age

WELCOME TO 2043

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Thirty years ago, in 1983, people didn't surf the Internet or talk on cellphones. There was no space tourism and supermarkets didn't stock their shelves with genetically engineered food. Now look 30 years into the future. You'll see yourself using performance-enhancing drugs, artificial limbs — and only speak to other humans infrequently.

"Evolution has come to an end," says Rohit Talwar, CEO of forecasting company Fast Future. "Physically, we humans are not developing anymore, so in the future we'll use all sorts of enhancement drugs to improve our abilities — for example, our cognition. Up to 90 per cent of university students already admit to using cognition-aiding substances."

In other words, we'll try to make ourselves smarter — and more successful in school and at work — by taking drugs. And we'll go about our smarter lives in better bodies. Futurists predict widespread use of artificial limbs, which may function even better than our natural ones. "And most of us will have the equivalent of an external hard-drive," predicts Talwar. "Like computers, we'll have memory in the cloud. And this is already happening, since cellphones essentially function like our external hard drives."

Indeed, technology will define our lives to a degree unimaginable today. "You think cellphones dominate our lives today?" asks Dutch futurist Erwin Van Lun. "2043 will be incomparable! Cellphones won't even exist anymore. We'll have a world where every window is a cellphone and camera. People will communicate through these windows in a very natural way, asking it about everything from their bank account balance to philosophical questions."

But there's a darker side, too. "We'll essentially be bots," notes Josh Calder, founder of forecasting firm Foresight Alliance. "Artificial intelligence will regulate every aspect of our lives, including our social lives. Artificial systems will help us connect with others because they can tell us who's like us. Of course, that's what's already happening on some dating websites." The chance encounter, the love-at-first-sight romance will be history as human interaction is reduced to a minimum, a luxury even. And as humans become islands connected by AI systems, politics will be reduced to a micro-sphere — your neighbourhood — and the heaviest macro issues, like foreign policy.

Perhaps even more worryingly, AI will put us out of work. "Because AI will be so pervasive, a large part of the workforce won't be needed," predicts Calder. "There's nothing that isn't partially doable by a bot. In order to avoid mass poverty, governments will have to pay all these people a stipend. Of course, if humans want other humans to perform a task, they can choose that option, even if it costs more. And humans will find work assisting AI systems. For example, any human can say, 'I just saw a dog jumping through a hoop'. AI systems can't do that easily."

And, even as they're making us redundant in the workplace, AI systems will be watching over us. "You'll be monitored 24/7 by your phone and be told whether you're having health issues, like a heart attack," elaborates Talwar. "That will drive health-care costs down because preventative care is cheaper."

Of course, a country can choose to minimize the role of AI. But it will do so at its own peril, as other countries steam ahead to AI-assisted economic success. Of course, these scenarios may not happen at all. The world could run out of energy, or there may not be enough money.

But, futurists agree, AI is here to stay and run our lives. Being a servant to computers, using artificial limbs, depending on drugs for your mental output: what's the point of putting children into such a world?

"But by not having kids you're just giving up on the future, because then the future will just be populated by the progeny of the oblivious," reflects Calder. "And while there may be aspects of the future that seem alarming to us, they will seem normal to our children. Humans are very resilient."

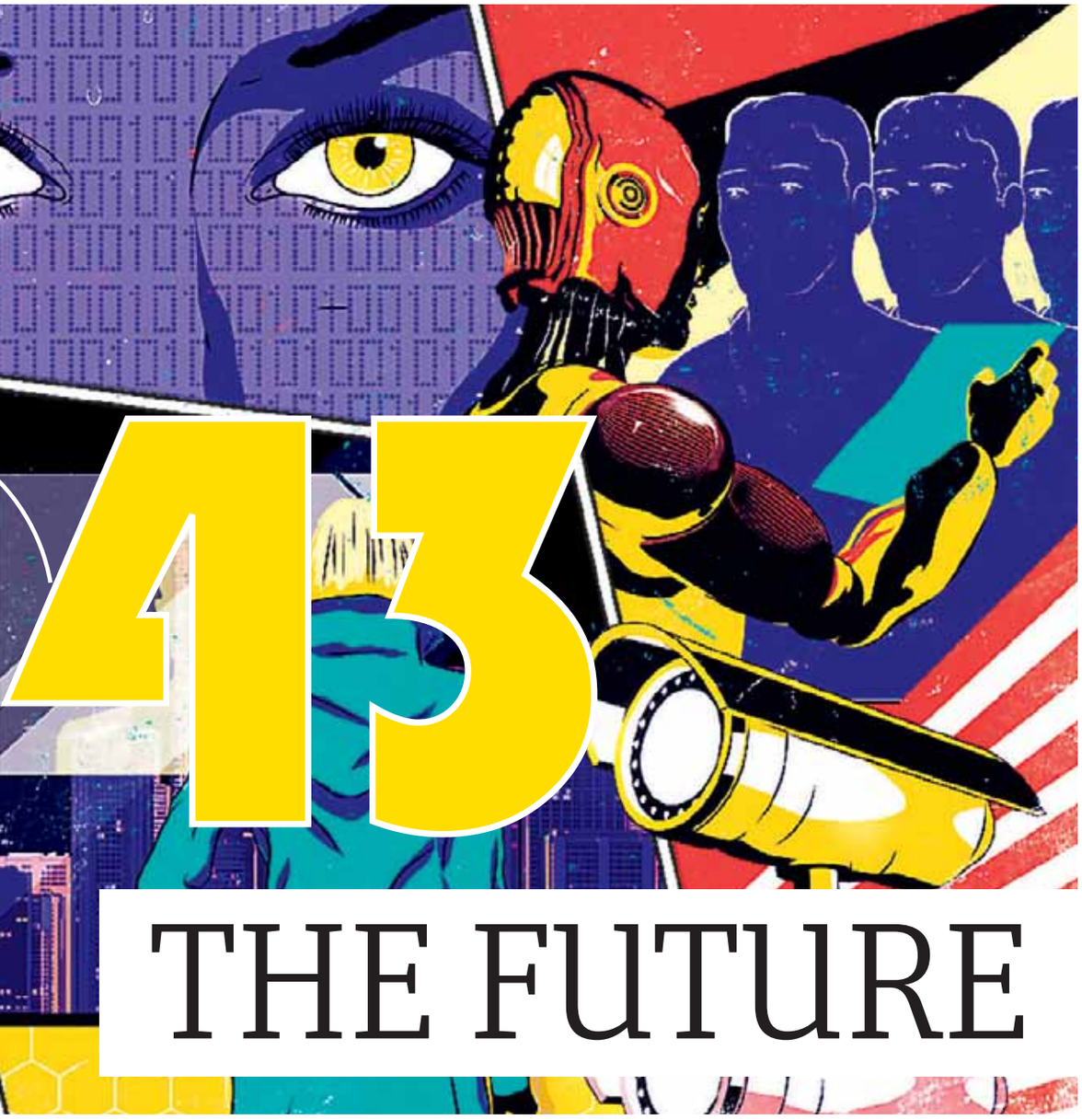
On the web

Metro columnist Richard Crouse lets us in on a little secret: Will Smith is the only star who matters. Find out why at metronews.ca

Technology. 'In 2043, computers will speak the language of humans'

ERWIN VAN LUN
Marketing Futurist
CEO/Founder Chatbots.org

Only 20 years ago, the Internet was opened to the public. Being the greatest innovation since the invention of the printing press, it has revolutionized the world. However, the revolution has just begun. In 2043, computers will speak the language of humans. They will no longer look like machines, but like real humans, the most natural interface ever introduced. These virtual humans will live in the cloud, not restricted to any "device." They will express emotions like humans, speak our language, even dialects, and understand our — often local — gestures. These AI characters will appear on floating, transparent camera screens, which will be as cheap as plastic bags today, and spread in all parts of the world, including the now-developing countries. Their incarnation, the humanoid robots, will assist us with many physical tasks. We'll work a lot less, maximum 15 hours per week, allowing us to focus on our core competence: being human.



43 THE FUTURE

Leisure. Why pay for airfare when you can walk the Grand Canyon at home?

L CHRISTOPHER KENT
Co-Founder of futures consulting firm Foresight Alliance.

The leisure of 2043 will be immersive. Cheap storage and easy recording mean any experience can be captured and replayed or modified. So gamers will be able to play against "real" professional athletes and, instead of reality TV, viewers can experience living the life of their favourite star — premieres! parties! shopping! — through footage licensed for use by the celebrity. Readers will have the option of reading the story or participating as a character. The same holds true for movies and television. Traveltainment will be popular, especially if climate change premiums on airfare put flying out of reach for many consumers. Tourists can walk the Grand Canyon or visit the Antarctic glaciers in their homes. Leisure time will be extended in most cases by the use of drones, robots, and 3D printing, all of which allow for tremendous time and labour savings, though for the workers in some industries, this could be an unwelcome development.

Work. We'll be happy, thin and work 6 to 10 jobs in our long lifetimes

ROHIT TALWAR
Futurist professional speaker and CEO of the foresight research firm Fast Future Research.

Entire industries will be transformed by advances such as 4D printing that will enable us to print objects that can actually change their properties and behaviour over time. Service industries and professional work will be impacted by artificial intelligence. In this world, careers will be transformed. Increasingly we'll take the option of studying online for free on courses run by major providers such as Harvard, with our coursework marked by AI programs. With life expectancy rising to 100 and beyond in developed economies, the idea of a career will change. We could easily have six to 10 careers over a working life that extends into our 90's. To cope in an intensely competitive world we'll use a variety of human enhancements to make us smarter, fitter and more effective. For example, we'll have bio-engineered body parts and exoskeletons and use smart drugs and electronic stimulus techniques. And advances in genetics have the potential to control conditions such as anger, stress and obesity.

WILL & JADEN

Metro's Special Guests take a look at what the world will be like in 2043, when Jaden is Will's age. The conclusion? An eerie resemblance to one of the latter Smith's earlier blockbuster films.

1 Mechanical arms?

Will: Yes, that's true. You can just have one for fun.

Jaden: I'd be one of those old school guys that's like, "No, all that new technology. I don't need one."

Will: (In old man voice) **"Newfangled technology. All these kids. People lived for thousands of years with no metal arms. Now every Tom, Dick and Harry got a new metal knee."**

2 Drugs that make you smarter?

Jaden: OK, I have a lot to say about this.

Will: Oh jeez.

Jaden: They've been storing information on DNA—they have made DNA—

Will: This is where we go too far.

Jaden: They have stored all of Shakespeare's sonnets on something this big (holds up small tape recorder). **Now if they can put information into artificial DNA cells, then I feel they could apply that to our DNA in our brain and we'll be able to download things onto our bodies.**

Will: That's deep.

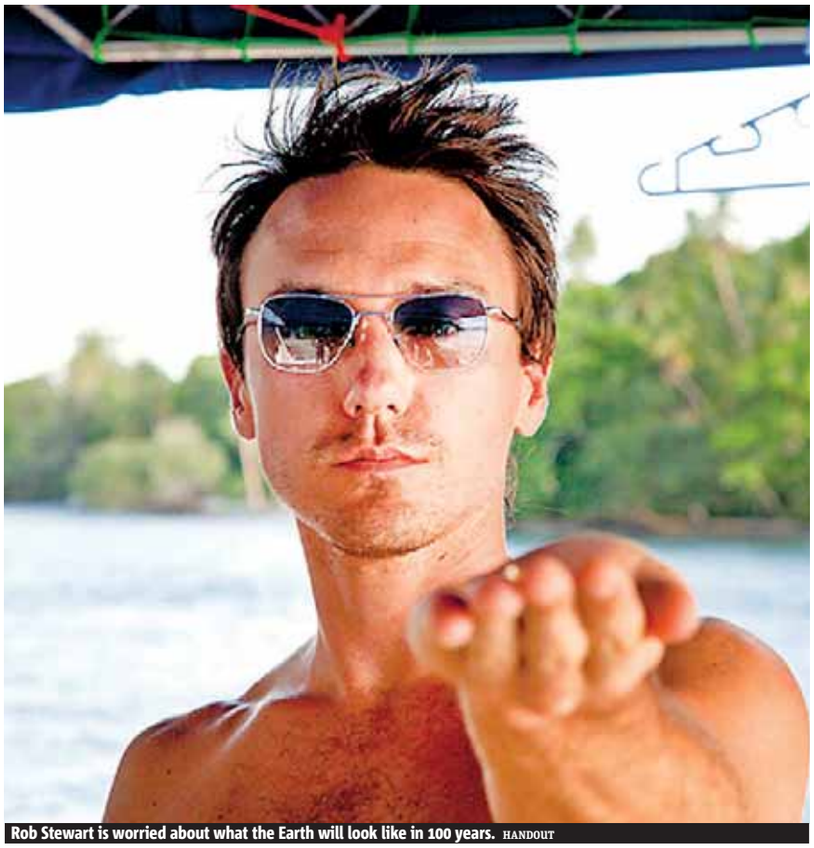
3 Experts also say we become bots. Is this positive?

Will: Yes. All forward movement, even when it doesn't feel good, is positive.

Jaden: That's how I, Robot happened, just so you know.

Will: OK. Maybe he's right. Maybe it's not good.

I, Robot



Rob Stewart is worried about what the Earth will look like in 100 years. HANDOUT

Our survival on Earth 'is in jeopardy,' filmmaker says

Revolution. Toronto's Rob Stewart's latest film has humans in midst of another near extinction

IAN GORMELY
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To hear filmmaker Rob Stewart tell it, global events like today's Earth Day should be viewed more as grim reminders of the tough path ahead than as a celebration.

"We're in a really delicate situation right now where our survival is in jeopardy," says the director. "We've got to do something fast."

The dire straits Stewart describes take centre stage in the Toronto native's latest film, Revolution, which lays groundwork of humanity's survival plan for the next 100 years. "We follow life as a character through 3.5 billion years of evolution," he says. "Five mass extinctions almost wiped life off the face of the planet culminating with humans in the midst of another one of these extinctions." Escapist cinema this is not.

Stewart, a wildlife photographer turned environmental activist, recognizes that fear mongering isn't the way to draw people to your cause — appealing to their humanity is. "We've got to get an emotional reaction out of the public so that they care about it," he says. "We thought that following me around as a character would be a good way to do that."

The film opens with Stewart on press junkets promoting Sharkwater, his debut film about shark finning. During this period he realized that all his efforts to save sharks would be in vain if their entire eco-system were to collapse. From there he details the effects of ocean acidification as a result of over-consumption. By the time the credits roll, Stewart is knee-deep in the fervent activist movement coalescing around efforts to stop the destruction of the environment.

Never a fan of politics, Stewart nevertheless sees activism as the place where average Joes can make a difference. "If this was a spectator sport, we would have won already. But it's not. We're going down the tubes fast."

The list of problems facing our planet — climate change, ocean-acidification — and the factors that created this situation, roll off Stewart's tongue with ease. But he's not all doom and gloom; his optimistic outlook is palpable, making him an ideal spokesperson for the cause. Yet it's the younger generation who he's banking on.

"There's an opportunity for kids to become heroes for the eco-systems that we love. And I think this generation is going to make more heroes than ever before because we're engaging in the biggest battle humanity's ever been in," he says.

"It's going to be wicked to see what happens and it's going to call the best in humanity to the height of their potential."

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CANADIANS ACT FOR THE PLANET

On April 22, more than six million Canadians will celebrate Earth Day by taking part in some type of event, project or activity. Some will join in a large public event, such as Victoria's Earth Walk, Edmonton's Earth Day Festival in Hawrelak Park, or the Waterways Clean-up in Oakville, Ont. Others will participate in smaller private events organized by schools, employee groups or community centres.

Much of the credit for galvanizing environmental awareness goes to Earth Day Canada (EDC), a national charity founded in 1990. EDC designs, delivers and co-ordinates dozens of programs, projects and activities across Canada. This, in turn, sensitizes Canadians to environmental issues and encourages them to take effective action. EDC's efforts have earned it a string of awards from such groups as the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication, and the Washington-based North American Association for Environmental Education.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

"The key to making progress on environmental issues is partnership," says EDC president Jed Goldberg. "We partner regularly with thousands of public- and private-sector organizations across the country. Being part of a larger team inspires people to act."

Act for the Planet, EDC's primary campaign for 2013, focuses on encouraging both groups and individuals to take specific, practical steps to reduce energy consumption and promote sustainability. A calendar lists tips and links; a dedicated Facebook page offers daily challenges and community discussions. The campaign also provides teachers and students with information and support.

EDC's Eco-Kids program combines partnership with outreach and education. The program provides a wealth of resources — including lesson plans, activity sheets and other handouts — to teachers. Along with materials tailored to elementary school curricula, teachers and students can access stickers, temporary tattoos, bookmarks and posters; they can also create and share online profile pages of EcoKids schools, activities and accomplishments.

EDC also runs a program that encourages children to nurture their environmentalist spirit as they grow up. Each year, the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program grants 20 awards of $5,000 each for tuition, books and other expenses associated with full-time post-secondary study in Canada.

– Ron Kassner

TREES PLAY VITAL ROLE

Tree-planting events have been a popular part of Earth Day since the very beginning. The reason for this is simple — planting trees is one of the most effective ways to improve the environment. It is a progressive, optimistic and practical expression of respect for the planet. In both a literal and figurative sense, planting a tree is about putting down roots and creating a better future.

Trees play a number of vital roles in ecosystems around the world, particularly in cities and other developed areas. They filter pollution from the air, convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, recycle water and rejuvenate soil. Their shade helps reduce summer temperatures, while their branches provide perches and homes for birds and other animals. Humans benefit from their soothing effect, their fruits and nuts, and the shelter they give from wind and rain.

Despite all of these advantages, however, the reality is that trees in Canada are under threat like never before. The forestry industry, along with habitat loss due to population growth and agriculture, continues to diminish the number of trees in this country. Compounding the problem in recent decades has been the steady march of invasive insects.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The pine beetle, emerald ash borer, European gypsy moth, brown spruce longhorn beetle and sirex wasp have all devastated stands of trees from coast to coast. The impact of invasive species has been particularly dramatic in many urban neighbourhoods, where single species, such as the ash tree, were planted almost exclusively decades ago. Suddenly, the canopy is gone and the neighbourhood feels bare, cold and unwelcoming.

When it comes to choosing which species of tree to plant, consider several key factors, such as soil type, rain patterns and distance from obstacles such as overhead wires, buildings and fences.

– Peter Doyle

UBC Continuing Studies

Energy Modelling for the Built Environment

Being able to forecast and understand energy use in new development is going to be of critical importance.

Dave Ramslie, Senior Sustainability Programs Manager, City of Vancouver

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RECYCLE WITH STYLE AT VALUE VILLAGE

Shopping and donating at Value Village provides a great way for customers to reduce, reuse and recycle.

There are many ways consumers can make small changes in their daily habits in order to have a positive impact on the environment, from switching to energy-efficient light bulbs and eco-friendly cleaning products to carrying reusable shopping bags. What many don't realize is that one of the easiest ways to "go green" is by shopping thrift. When you shop at Value Village stores and donate reusable items to its non-profit partners, you are keeping goods out of landfills and giving pre-loved treasures a brand new life.

"We know that families across Canada are clearing out their clutter and getting organized with spring cleaning," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "By donating these items, instead of simply throwing them away, you can give back to your community and save quality goods from polluting the Earth. In fact, Value Village operates one of the largest recycling programs in the world, saving more than 600 million pounds of goods from landfills last year alone."

So how does it work? Every Value Village location partners with a charitable organization in its community, including Canadian Diabetes Association, Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Developmental Disabilities Association. All year round, each store pays its non-profit partner for every donated item, including clothing, housewares, books and more. Over the past 10 years, Value Village has purchased more than $1.5 billion of goods from its partners — turning otherwise unused items into sustainable funding that supports the non-profit's vital community programs and services.

CONTRIBUTED

FRESH AND EVER-CHANGING SELECTION

Shopping thrift is a great way to snag fashionable clothing and one-of-a-kind accessories, collectibles, books and household items for a bargain. Value Village purchases its merchandise from more than 60 non-profit offices across Canada, which allows each store to stock nearly 100,000 items on its sales floor each and every day. So the selection is ever-changing and always fresh.

The highest quality items are priced at a great value and displayed on Value Village's sales floors for purchase, while merchandise not suitable for resale is responsibly recycled.

Residents with clothing or household goods to donate can call participating non-profits for a home pickup or drop off their items at convenient Community Donation Centres located at every Value Village store.

For more on Value Village's non-profit partnerships and recycling efforts, or to find a Community Donation Centre near you, visit valuevillage.com.

Good things come from a donation.

Save 30%

When you donate two bags or boxes of reusable clothing or household items at the Community Donation Centre located at Value Village! Now thru May 4, 2013. Value Village pays local nonprofits every time you donate, and recycling helps planet Earth! Thank you!

Offer good now thru May 4, 2013. One coupon per visit. Minimum two box/bag requirement. Each box/bag must be equal to or larger than one full brown paper grocery store shopping bag. See coupon for details.

Donations Benefit:

Canadian Diabetes Association
Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Developmental Disabilities Association

Donate at:

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Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver

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AWARENESS IS KEY TO SOCIAL CHANGE

Earth Day, created as an awareness-raising event more that 40 years ago, continues to inspire people to adopt new environmentally friendly habits.

When millions of people wake up on April 22 and realize that it's Earth Day, many will ask: "What difference will it make?" Yet, just by pondering the precarious state of the environment, they have answered their own question: They are aware. Millions of us are aware. And that makes all the difference in the world.

As history demonstrates, awareness is the vital first step in bringing about change. For decades, second-hand smoke was quietly tolerated. As more and more people became aware of the dangers of cigarette smoke, however, the clean-air movement was born. Activists formed groups and coalitions, rallied the general public to their cause and inspired governments to ban smoking from public places.

The fight against racism has also been a long struggle and the progress made to date has been inspired by the public's growing awareness of the issues at stake. We have made great strides since the far-off days of slavery and the not-so-far off days of segregation and blatant discrimination. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., to a white man. Her fight for justice soon became a national story across the U.S., and society took notice. The civil rights movement gained momentum, and attitudes towards racial intolerance began to change.

JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

As the spotlight shines ever more brightly on the harmful practices of corporations, the wasteful ways of citizens and businesses, and the high-consumption habits of Western society, environmental awareness continues to grow. Gradually, the old ways of doing things are less and less acceptable.

We can be proud of the efforts of Earth Day organizers and volunteers to raise awareness of the problems facing the environment. But now that we're aware, what's next? That's where the real test begins. We must apply what we know to our day-to-day lives; we must take the concrete, practical steps that we know can reduce our environmental footprint. Awareness must inspire us to take action. *– Ron Kassner*

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Nikie Lloyd, Client Engagement & Operational Sustainability, Deloitte, BC

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UNORTHODOX IDEAS

You may already be part of the green movement — you ride your bike to work, bring reusable bags to the supermarket and grow a vegetable garden. If you are also interested in large-scale efforts to save the environment — or if your interests tend to be quirky and offbeat — the unorthodox ideas below will catch your attention. Crazy? Perhaps. Great conversation starters? Definitely.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

WRAP NORTHERN GLACIERS IN BLANKETS

Dr. Jason Box, a scientist from Ohio, came up with a proposal to lay huge polypropylene blankets over glaciers scattered throughout the north. The blankets would reflect the sun's rays and insulate the ice below. In theory, enough sunlight would be reflected to prevent the ice caps from melting. Might ruin the view, though.

MAKE DENSER CLOUDS

NASA and Bill Gates came up with an idea that might not hold water. They proposed ships that would suck up seawater and spray it high into the air, increasing the density of ocean clouds. In theory, the denser clouds would reflect more sunlight and slow the rate of climate change. However, the huge amounts of energy required to power these ships — along with the exorbitant cost of the project — make it unfeasible.

PEDAL YOUR WAY TO FREE HOTEL MEALS

The Crown Plaza Hotel in Copenhagen is trying to save energy and encourage guests to be physically active. Guests who generate 10 watt-hours (about 15 minutes of cycling on exercise bikes in the fitness centre) receive a voucher for a free meal in the hotel restaurant. *– Ron Kassner*

Reese Witherspoon and Jim Toth. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Witherspoon and husband arrested after traffic stop

Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon and her husband, talent agent Jim Toth, were arrested in Atlanta, Ga., this weekend after Toth was pulled over under suspicion of driving while intoxicated, police officials confirm to Variety.

Witherspoon was booked on a disorderly conduct charge after verbally sparring with police officers and disregarding their commands, according to the report.

"Mrs. Witherspoon began to hang out the window and say that she did not believe that I was a real police officer," according to the police report. "I told Mrs. Witherspoon to sit on her butt and be quiet. Mrs. Witherspoon asked, 'Do you know my name?' I answered, 'No, I don't need to know your name.' Mrs. Witherspoon stated, 'You're about to find out who I am. You are going to be on national news.' I advised Mrs. Witherspoon that was fine."

Both Witherspoon and Toth were jailed briefly early Sunday morning before being released.

Joel McHale

McHale not fazed by gay rumours

Joel McHale has read the speculation about his sexuality — and he's fine with it.

"I see that on Twitter every day. It's flattering," the married father of two tells the Advocate.

"I always find it really weird when guys flip out over someone thinking they might be gay. If a guy gets offended by that, there's something wrong with him. I take it as a compliment."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Bieber and Gomez playing breakup to makeup

Breakup or no breakup, Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez just can't seem to keep away from each other.

The Spring Breakers star reportedly headed to Norway late last week and arrived just in time to be waiting backstage after Bieber's Oslo concert, according to Us Weekly.

"They have a crazy connection," a source says. "They just can't seem to break their connection. It can be intense."

How intense? Bieber was recently spotted clutching his iPhone — which apparently has a recent photo of Gomez as its screen saver.

Twitter

@MissKellyO
moved into my new house today & I know that this may sound stupid to some but this is 1 of the best days of my life I even have my own pool!

@NiallOfficial
Aaaaaggghhhh! Just woke up to find out I have 11million followers! Thank you soo much to every one of you!

@kirstiealley
I want to win 300 million dollars in a lottery ...I really do..raise of hands if you do too

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REVOLUTION
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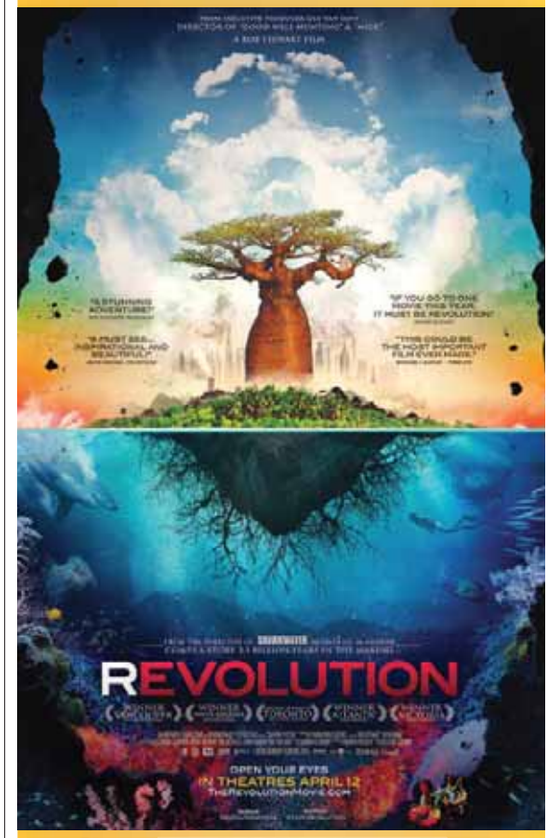

See REVOLUTION in theatres today!

Group Sales tickets are now available at Empire and Cineplex theatres across Canada!

Submit a written or video essay on what you would do to start the **REVOLUTION** to save the environment in your community. Ten winners will be chosen from an exclusive committee consisting of Rob Stewart, Les Stroud, Andrew Weaver, Dr. Boris Worm and Ron Suter.

VISIT clubmetro.com TO ENTER

No purchase necessary. Contest open to residents of Canada, excluding the province of Quebec, who have reached the age of thirteen (13) years of age or older. Odds of winning depend on the calibre of eligible entries received. Ten (10) Grand Prizes are available to be won, consisting of one $2,500 cash prize to be used towards payment of post secondary schooling valued at $2500CDN). Contest closes May 17th 2013 at 12:59PM EST. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com

Book excerpt

Family brands you shouldn't wear proudly

IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth,
kathybuckworth.com

We all know that expression "there's no such thing as bad PR." Actually, there is. (Remember Michael Richards?) And bad public relations around your family can haunt you for years at a school, in a neighbourhood or during get-togethers with relatives. Some family branding and publicity should be avoided at all costs:

• Yelling Family: One of my personal favourites — the screeching mom, the angry teenagers, the loud bursts of a daddy baritone ... love these guys. They make the rest of us feel civil and proud. Yell on, fine people.

• Late Family: No matter what you are expecting them for — school, a wedding, a family gathering, a dinner party, or picking up your kid for hockey — these folks simply cannot arrive anywhere on time. You've tried, oh you've tried ... nothing works. This is their lifestyle.

• Disaster Family: This is the family who always manages to have at least one member fall sick or get injured on a vacation; routinely has something blow up, get wet, or collapse in their house; and has the best excuses for missing school concerts (the bulldozer drove through our basement), parent-teacher interviews (the water line to the fridge exploded in my face), or the last game of the hockey playoffs (the back tire just flew off as we drove down the highway). **EXCERPTED FROM KATHY BUCKWORTH'S I AM SO THE BOSS OF YOU: AN 8 STEP GUIDE TO GIVING YOUR FAMILY "THE BUSINESS," PUBLISHED BY MCCLELLAND & STEWART, 2013, AVAILABLE AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE.**

Exclusively online

Occasionally, mommy and her girlfriends decide it's time to delegate child care to the daddies and have a girls' night out. But things have definitely changed since those estrogen-charged nights of years past. Follow along with the comedic (mis)adventures of mommyhood online with Reasons Mommy Drinks at metronews.ca/voices

Making your next party a bit more kid-friendly

Event planning.
Organizing an event that pleases both parents and kids can be done — we promise

NATALIE SHURE
Metro World News in New York

With her L.A.-based company Chic Events, Rachel Hollis has dreamed up parties for every occasion.

She's even managed to pick up tricks to help parents please crowds of all ages.

How can party planning be more manageable for people with small children?
Have courage; people are going to be so appreciative of anything you do! Go with your strengths. If you don't know how to cook, but make good cocktails, great! You can get the food from a local restaurant. Do the things you're good at. Give yourself wiggle room on things you're less familiar with.

How can parents involve their kids?
I like to keep them busy and out of my hair. I'll often say, "Go to the backyard and find three branches and two pretty flowers," and I'll incorporate those things into the decor. It becomes a game for them.

What is the most common party-planning mistake you've seen?
Many people don't give themselves enough time. Plan like a Boy Scout. Always be prepared.

Think of the event as two separate parties — one for adults and the other for kids. ISTOCK

New Books

Tiptoe Joe

Read along as Beaver, Moose, Turkey and other forest friends follow the quiet Tiptoe Joe and his red sneakers on a trek to see a secret nestled deep in the woods.

The Dark

The Dark features text by best-selling author Lemony Snicket with genius drawings by Jon Klassen about a little boy who learns how to live with the unknown.

Open Very Carefully: A Book With Bite!

A wily crocodile finds his way into what should be The Ugly Duckling and overtakes the pages.

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WWW.RANDOMHOUSE.CA
www.kathybuckworth.com

VOLUNTEER CENTRES GET TRAINING

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

The federal government/Volunteer Canada partnership recently announced it is providing training to more than 120 volunteer centres.

"Our government is committed to the safety and security of all Canadians, including those who are most vulnerable — like children and the elderly," said Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews. "Through the training provided in conjunction with Volunteer Canada and the volunteer screening handbook, our government is responding to a call from organizations to help them better screen volunteers and provide community service organizations invaluable tools to improve the safety and quality of programs whose volunteers and employees are in trusted positions."

"Effective volunteer screening is vital to the health of Canada's voluntary sector," said Paula Speevak Sladowski, Volunteer Canada's interim president and chief operating officer. "It helps organizations achieve better volunteer matching, improved safety and quality of programs, and reduced risks and liability. Volunteer Canada is very pleased to collaborate with the government of Canada on this initiative, and we are grateful for the commitment of our partners who have received the training — local volunteer centres and national non-profits alike."

In October 2012, Public Safety Canada launched the Screening Handbook and partnered with Volunteer Canada to develop training materials and to offer "train the trainer" sessions based on the Screening Handbook for national, provincial and community volunteer organizations.

Through its training, Volunteer Canada has reached more than 700 community organizations and has made an outstanding contribution in helping to prevent abuse, and build safe and resilient communities. The Volunteer Canada training sessions were held in volunteer centres across Canada throughout February and March, and were designed to help organizations better screen volunteers.

Volunteer Canada's commitment to providing leadership and resources across the country is supported by organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Victorian Order of Nurses.

TURN PASSION INTO A CAREER

AT RED RIVER COLLEGE

CONTRIBUTED

Take your volunteering to a whole new level at Red River College.

For those who love to be involved in the community by giving back and playing an active role through their volunteer work, the volunteer management certificate program at Red River College will give you the training to turn your passion into a career.

"Volunteers play an important role in the success of any organization," says Gail Mireau, program manager, community service and education at the school of continuing education at Red River College. "Someone needs to be leading these volunteers."

The volunteer management certificate trains students to manage and motivate groups of volunteers. The core courses include — recruitment and marketing, risk management, program planning and evaluation, interpersonal communication, and working with volunteers.

The volunteer management certificate is available through distance learning so students can enrol in this program from anywhere in Canada to earn their certificate. Practicums may also be completed outside of Winnipeg.

Graduates can go on to a number of exciting careers within a variety of different fields, such as sports organizations or in the health-care field.

This program is the only one like it in Canada and follows the Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources (CAVR) guidelines. The program is offered in partnership with Volunteer Manitoba, Manitoba Association of Volunteer Administration (MAVA), and can be used towards a CAVR designation.

Red River College is also partnered with a number of volunteer branches throughout the country.

For more information about this program, visit rrc.ca/vol.

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Kelly Seifert, Volunteer and Event Staff Coordinator, Volunteer Management Certificate, 2010.
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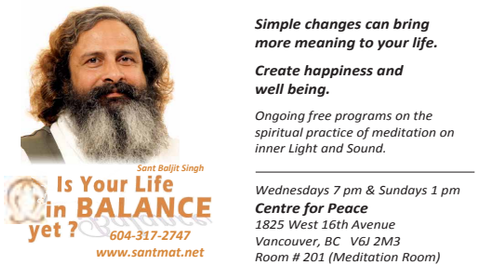
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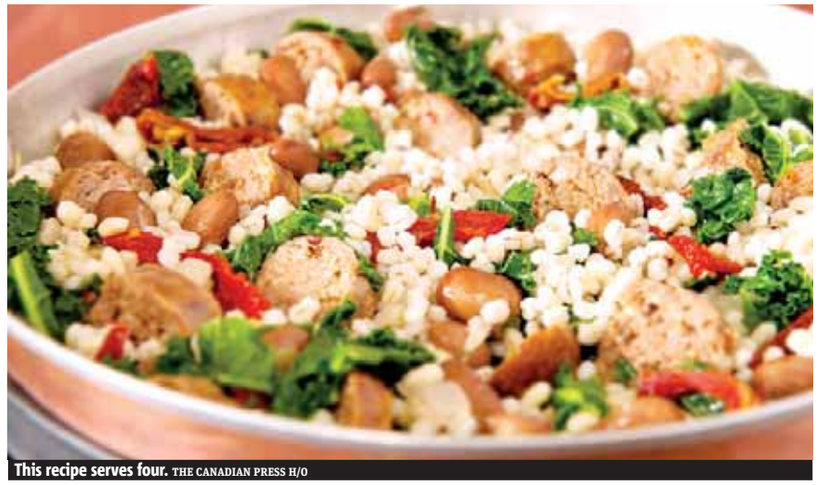
Quick and savoury: Chorizo Kale Sauté with Beans

This savoury dish comes together very quickly and makes an ideal weeknight supper.

Kale is a nutritional powerhouse that's low in calories and high in fibre as well as vitamins A, C and K.



This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients

- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- Pinch salt
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) pearl barley
- 350 g (3/4 lb) chorizo or Andouille sausage
- 8 sundried tomato halves, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced, or to taste
- 6 stalks kale
- 1 can (540 ml/19 oz) cannellini (white kidney) or Romano beans, drained
- Crushed red pepper, to taste (optional)

1. In a medium saucepan, bring water and salt to a boil. Add barley; return to a boil, then cover and reduce heat. Simmer for 40 minutes.

2. Heat non-stick skillet. Dice sausage and toss it into skillet, stirring to brown.

3. If dried tomatoes are very firm, soak for several minutes in warm water; drain and thinly slice. Add to skillet. Stir in garlic and sauté briefly.

4. Remove ribs from kale and thinly slice leaves. Add to skillet along with cooked barley and beans; cook until kale is slightly wilted. Sprinkle with crushed red pepper if you'd like more heat. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ GOBARLEY.COM

Working in slippers ain't easy

Do the home base hustle. Sure you might make your bucks from bed, but if you choose to snooze, you lose

JULIA WEST
Metro World News in New York

Working from home sounds like a dream, but the reality is that it requires a lot of skills. To work from home you must be self-disciplined and able to manage time, but there are many other characteristics that come with being a successful at-home worker.

Distinguish work time and play time

It's easy to fall into the trap of constant connection when working remotely, but that doesn't help your stamina. You lock yourself in a home office during work, so why not turn off your phone during personal time?

"You must make personal time off-limits for work as much as possible," says Sabina Ptacin, co-founder of the online business community Tin Shingle. "This could mean no laptops in the bedroom or no calls during dinner. Try to be a realistic business and know when to turn off and on."

Don't forget, it's still work

When you work according to your own schedule, deadlines can be tighter and resources may be harder to find. You have to treat work like work, regardless of what else is going on.

"Remember that bosses want employees who get things done. Deliver on what they want and they won't care if you are in that cubicle or working out of a Starbucks," suggests Jane Miller, author of the upcoming book Sleep your Way to the Top (and Other Myths About Business Success).

"If you can get results and wear your bunny slippers, you'll have the best of all worlds," adds Miller.

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The most important sandwich of your life?

PB & job. BuzzFeed takes the weight off of the cover letter woes by asking applicants to submit their best hunger how-to

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS
Metro World News in New York

Writing cover letters is arguably the worst part about job searching. Making yourself sound fun and cool but also professional and hardworking is exceptionally hard.

The folks at viral content behemoth BuzzFeed.com seem to understand that.

A job listing for support specialist at BuzzFeed takes an unorthodox approach at vetting potential candidates.

To apply, BuzzFeed asks applicants:

A rare request

"Instead of a cover letter, which tend to be generic and forgettable, we're asking people to demonstrate a skill they'll have to use in the job."

Alice DuBois
BuzzFeed product lead for editorial tools

"Instead of a cover letter, please send us instructions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Text, images, video … the format for your PB&J tutorial is up to you, as long as following your instructions results in a really delicious sandwich."

"One of the main responsibilities for the support specialist will be creating documentation and FAQs for our editing tools," Alice DuBois, BuzzFeed product lead for editorial tools, said in an email to Metro.

"We're interested in getting a sense of applicants' communication style. So instead of a cover letter, which tend to be generic and forgettable, we're asking people to demonstrate a skill they'll have to use in the job."

Applicants will still have to submit resumés and interview for the position, though Chris Johanesen, BuzzFeed VP of product, had the idea to conduct one of the interviews over GChat, since the support specialist will spend a lot of time helping people via instant messages.

"Many tweets about this job posting seem to suggest that BuzzFeed has decided to request PB&J instructions instead of a cover letter for all of our job postings, so I want to point out that we made this request only for the support specialist position," DuBois said.

Beyond the bread

Not just a connoisseur of condiments

- In addition to amazing sandwich making skills, candidates for BuzzFeed's support specialist position must possess superb communication skills, problem solving skills and of course a sense of humour.

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Canucks goalie Cory Schneider takes a goal away from Justin Abdelkader of the Red Wings with some help from defenceman Dan Hamhuis. The Canucks might not have secured a playoff berth on Saturday, beating the Red Wings 2-1 in a shootout, had it not been for Schneider's stellar play. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks continue to look for scoring

NHL. Rival Blackhawks in town Monday

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The Vancouver Canucks are in.

They qualified for the Stanley Cup playoffs with a 2-1 shootout win over the Detroit Red Wings on Saturday night at Rogers Arena and are closing in on a Northwest Division title.

And yet questions surround this team as the Canucks begin to close out the shortened regular season.

Saturday marked the third consecutive game the Canucks were held to just a single goal in regulation time. Against the Red Wings, Vancouver generated little in the way of an offensive attack, with just 14 shots directed at Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard.

Had it not been for another outstanding performance from goalie Cory Schneider, the Canucks might not have secured a playoff berth.

So, it was odd to hear captain Henrik Sedin say during the usual post-game scrum that it was one of the best games the Canucks had played "in a few weeks."

True, the Canucks did manage to keep Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg off the scoresheet. In a game that meant so much to Detroit's playoff chances, to prevent two stars from contributing was an encouraging development for the Canucks.

But Vancouver's collective offence has been recently halted, which doesn't exactly inspire confidence heading into the playoffs, when the physical play amps up and space on the ice is even more limited.

"You have to start in our end," Sedin reasoned.

"If you're going to get something going, build some momentum for the playoffs, that's where you've got to start. We know offence is going to come but it can't come from us cheating or doing the wrong things."

With the start of the playoffs getting closer by the day, the overwhelming question is going to focus on whether the Canucks indeed have what it takes to make a serious run at the Stanley Cup.

It will take awhile before we get a definitive answer.

Red-hot Hawks

The Canucks host their fiercest rivals, the Chicago Blackhawks, on Monday.

- The Blackhawks, winners in eight of their last 10 games, have already wrapped up first in the Western Conference and are five points ahead of the Pittsburgh Penguins with four games remaining in the race for the Presidents' Trophy.

MLS

Whitecaps can't steer clear of bumps on road

Another road game for the Vancouver Whitecaps resulted in another loss.

So far this season, the local Major League Soccer side has played four times away from the comfort of BC Place. The overall result on the road has been three losses and just one of a possible 12 points, with the latest setback coming Saturday in a 2-0 loss to FC Dallas.

The Toros got a goal in the 29th minute from a corner kick that deflected off the back of Whitecaps centre back Brad Rusin and just over the goal-line — a good indicator of how the match would pan out.

A Blas Pérez goal in the 50th minute put the game out of reach for the Whitecaps, and they couldn't regroup from the slow start, putting just eight attempts on goal.

"Obviously we couldn't stop what they do best. They've got a lot of big guys and they kept putting balls in the box. We didn't do a good job of stopping that," said Vancouver midfielder Matt Watson.

The Whitecaps begin their quest for a Canadian Championship on the road Wednesday against FC Edmonton. The MLS regular season will get back underway for the Whitecaps on Saturday — against FC Dallas at BC Place.

"That's the positive. We get the chance to put it right," head coach Martin Rennie said. "We play FC Dallas again next week and we have to put together a much better performance. We need to really show up for the game next week."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

NHL. Oilers lose to Ducks, take spill out of playoff race

The Edmonton Oilers will miss the playoffs for a seventh consecutive season after losing 3-1 to the Anaheim Ducks on Sunday.

Cam Fowler, Kyle Palmieri and Corey Perry scored for the Ducks (28-11-6), who snapped a four-game losing skid.

The Ducks can clinch the Pacific Division title with another win over the Oilers in the rematch in Edmonton on Monday.

Taylor Hall scored in response for the Oilers (17-20-7), who have lost seven of their last eight games. Edmonton's lone bright spot was scored exactly one minute in. Hall notched his 15th of the year as he came in off the boards to beat Ducks starter Jonas Hiller between the legs with a wrist shot from the right faceoff dot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Jays bats break the Yankees' brooms

Brett Lawrie doubled home two runs in a four-run sixth inning and J.P. Arencibia hit his seventh homer as the Toronto Blue Jays rallied with six straight runs to defeat the New York Yankees 8-4 on Sunday afternoon.

The win helped Toronto (8-11) avert a series sweep at the hands of the Yankees (10-7). THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Heat start playoffs with a win

LeBron James scored 27 points on 9-for-11 shooting, Ray Allen scored 20 off the bench and the Miami Heat never trailed on the way to beating the Milwaukee Bucks 110-87 in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference first-round series on Sunday night.

Game 2 is Tuesday in Miami. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Heat's LeBron James drives to the basket Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is something you must do but you are not looking forward to it one little bit. Don't worry.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you break the rules today others will judge you in a way that may not be fair, but you will only have yourself to blame. You know what is and is not permissible, so think before you act.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may have got a rival right where you want them but now you are in control of the situation ask yourself, do you really want to make them suffer? You've won already

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may be worried that a plan of some kind is not working out the way you expected but don't start changing things around just yet.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Is your sixth sense telling you that a loved one needs your help? Well it should be and if it isn't it means you are too wrapped up in your work to notice

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It seems you have been letting your fears get the better of you and if you allow it to continue it will affect your mood all week long. Don't let it happen. The world is still pretty marvelous – and so are you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It seems you have been letting your fears get the better of you and if you allow it to continue it will affect your mood all week long. Don't let it happen.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your money problems may be worrying but they are not as bad as you think. In fact over the next few days there will be signs that you are over the worst.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to identify your most important goal and focus on it to the exclusion of everything else.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to identify your most important goal and focus on it to the exclusion of everything else. Most of all though you need to stop worrying about what the future may bring.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do you do something worthwhile or do you do something purely for fun? That is the question you are struggling with but you can have it all you know. Make time in your life for the meaningful and the mundane.

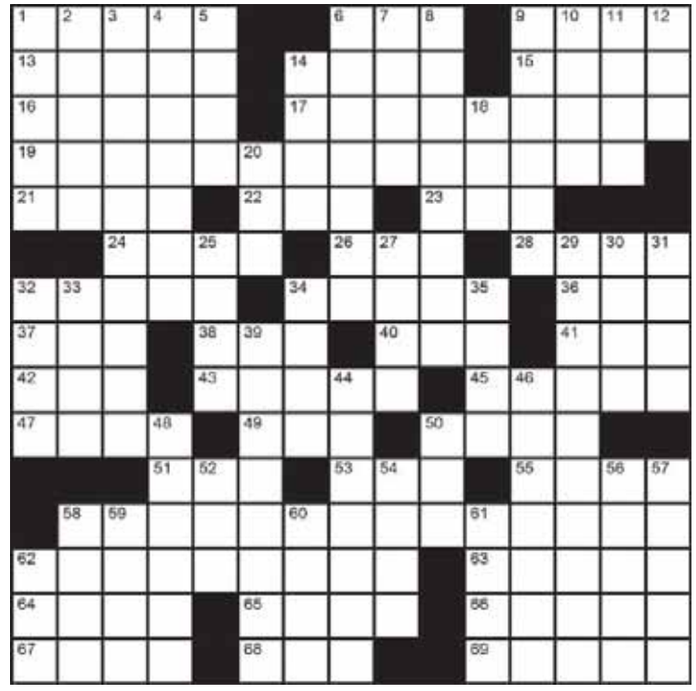
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You must let other people know how you feel today. If you don't they may assume you have no feelings towards them at all, and that's a recipe for disaster.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across

1. Puffed product
6. Raptors' venue, commonly
9. Wind blast
13. "Kukla, Fran and __"
14. "Two guys walk into _ __..." (Joke intro)
15. 'Origin' suffix
16. Corporate jets
17. __ Falcon (Bird of prey)
19. Star couple's torn photo headline: 2 wds.
21. 'N' of CSNY
22. 'Bomb' add-on (Pompous talk)
23. "__ _ recall..."
24. Neat
26. Eithers partners
28. Single-reed instr.
32. Rubbish
34. Bichon __ (Small dog breed)
36. Rock producer Brian
37. Greedily take
38. Prefix to 'centre'
40. Not opposin'
41. Classic music gr. in Canada's largest city
42. 1 ...spelled-out
43. Centre point
45. Old Irish alphabet
47. Singer Mr. Anthony
49. Form of theatre in Japan in which masks are worn
50. 'Ab' add-on (Soak up)
51. Carly Jepsen link
53. Diving bird
55. Highlands tongue
58. Element of Canada's Economic Action Plan 2013: 2 wds.
62. They dot the shores of The Great Lakes: 2 wds.
63. Tyler Perry character
64. 'Synth' suffix
65. Greek Myth: Earth goddess [var. sp.]
66. Won, but just barely
67. "Fancy that."
68. This season [abbr.]
69. Highway-crossing animals

Down

1. Filmdom's Mr. Farrell
2. "_ __ _ goal in." (Goaltender's reality)
3. "Don't Forget Me (When I'm Gone)" band: 2 wds.
4. Goodyear Blimp, for one
5. Breathing, for short
6. Hoodlum helper
7. Autos
8. Icy hazard on Mount Everest
9. Roasted __
10. Gas or elec., e.g.
11. Loudness of sound unit
12. Three, in Tuscany
14. Sacred bull of ancient Egypt
18. WWII soldiers
20. Set down
25. Judge
27. Great __ Valley
29. Alberta city
30. Vase's looped handle
31. House's one-of-some
32. Mr. Yorke, Radiohead singer
33. Canadian hardware store
34. Doggie
35. 'Switch' suffix
39. What 'knotty' cabins are built from: 2 wds.
44. Canadian actor, William __
46. Explosive song by Bruno Mars
48. Mark of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes"
50. Music style
52. Ctrl, Shift, __
54. Constellation, __ Major
56. Smile scornfully
57. "Blimey!"
58. __ __ speak
59. Mr. Kristofferson
60. Give and take
61. Chatted, with AOL
62. Classify, informally

Friday's Crossword

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

5	2		1	3				
		4	6	8				7
3					2	4	5	
1		9			8		2	
	8		3		9		4	
	3		2			8		9
	9	3	5					4
6				4	3	1		
				2	6		7	5

Friday's Sudoku

Today
14°/6°
Sunny

Tuesday
14°/9°
Partly cloudy

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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Frankfurt	from $849
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Croatia 8-Day Tour
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HIGHLIGHTS Split, Korcula, Mijet, Pakleni Islands, Makarska and Dubrovnik. Roundtrip Split.

Short Breaks

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights
from **$154** pp
INCLUDES accom at Harrison Lake.

Whistler 3 Nights 4-Star — from $189 pp
INCLUDES boutique accom in the Village.
ADD mountain explorer ATV tour from $133.

Victoria 2 Nights — from $204 pp
INCLUDES accom downtown near the waterfront.
ADD scenic float plane tour from $128.

Seattle 3 Nights — from $264 pp
INCLUDES art-deco accom in the University District over the May Long Weekend.
ADD Space Needle admission from $24.

Kelowna 2 Nights 4-Star — from $294 pp
INCLUDES lakefront accom near the downtown core.

Europe

London Air + 7 Nights
from **$1493**
INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square.
ADD Red Rover Thames hop-on hop-off tour from $15.

Scotland 7-Day Tour — from $1439
HIGHLIGHTS Glasgow, Fort William, Isle of Skye, Inverness, Pitlochry, Dunkeld, Culloden Moor, St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Travel Glasgow to Edinburgh.

Munich & Berlin
Air + 7 Nights — from $1519
INCLUDES all airfare, 3 nights Munich accom and 4 nights Berlin accom.

Istanbul
Air + 7 Nights — from $1739
INCLUDES Kumkapi area accom near historical sites and the Grand Bazaar.

Barcelona & Madrid
Air + 8 Nights — from $1929
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights central Barcelona accom and 4 nights central Madrid accom.

Cruise & Stays

Bahamas & Miami
Air + 2 Nights + 4-Night Cruise
from **$1189**
INCLUDES airfare, central Miami accom near the beach and cruise sailing roundtrip Miami visiting Grand Bahama Island, Nassau and Great Stirrup Cay. UPGRADE to 4-star accom and oceanview stateroom from $9 per night.

Portugal, Canary Islands & London
Air + 2 Nights + 14-Night Cruise — from $4049
INCLUDES airfare, central London accom near and cruise sailing roundtrip London visiting Ponta Delgada (Portugal), Madeira (Portugal), Tenerife, Las Palmas (Canary Islands), Fuerteventura (Canary Islands), Lanzarote (Canary Islands) and Lisbon.

USA

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights
from **$347**◊
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. ADD *Disneyland* Resort 3-Day *Park Hopper* Ticket from $249/adult, $234/child (ages 3-9).

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights — from $406
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $14 per night.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — from $866
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New York Air + 3 Nights — from $880
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